GENERAL REPORT

ON

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN ASSAM

FOR THE

Year 1887-88.

BY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

SECTION I.—General Summary.

	Page.	Para.
Class of instruction	1	1
Total number of public schools and pupils	2	2
Comparison of schools and pupils in each district	*ib.*	3
Classification according to religion	3	4
Percentage of pupils in public schools on children of a school-going age.	*ib.*	5
Summary for public schools, general	4	6
Gross expenditure for five years	5	7
Provincial budget and expenditure	6	8
Local budget and expenditure	*ib.*	9
Direct expenditure per head of population for each district ...	7	10
Comparison of total expenditure in different Provinces ...	8	11
Ditto of details of expenditure for two years according to different classes of schools.	*ib.*	12
Direct expenditure according to class of school	9	13
Comparison of cost of each class of school for the last two years ...	9-10	14

I.(*a*)—Recommendations of the Education Commission.

Education Commission	11	15
Educational Conference	*ib.*	16

SECTION II.—Controlling Agencies.

Inspection by Mr. Willson	12	17
Ditto by each Deputy and Sub-Inspector	*ib.*	18
Details of inspection of Deputy and Sub-Inspectors ...	13	19

SECTION IV.—School Education, General.

Secondary Schools	14	20
Progress of departmental high schools for last five years ...	15	21
Statistics of high schools in each district	16	22
Classification of pupils in high schools according to religion ...	17	23
Stage of instruction of pupils in high schools	*ib.*	24
Result of Entrance Examination for the last five years ...	*ib.*	25
Comparison of Entrance Examination for the last two years ...	*ib.*	26
Junior scholarships	18	27
Employment of pupils in high schools for the last five years ...	19	28
School accommodation and furniture	*ib.*	29
Gymnastics	*ib.*	30
Boarding-house	20	31
Details of high schools	20-22	32
Review of boys' middle English schools, Government and aided, for the last five years.	23	33
Statistics of boys' middle English schools ...	24	34
Classification of pupils in boys' middle English schools according to religion	25	35
Stage of instruction	26	36
Middle English scholarship and pass certificate for boys' schools ...	*ib.*	37
Review of boys' middle Vernacular schools, Government and aided, for the last five years	27	38
Statistics of boys' middle Vernacular schools	28	39
Classification of pupils in boys' middle Vernacular schools according to religion	29	40
Stage of instruction	*ib.*	41
Middle Vernacular Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination for boys' school	*ib.*	42
Comparison of boys' primary schools for the last two years ...	30	43
Statistics of boys' upper primary schools	31	44
Result of the Upper Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination for boys' upper primary schools	32	45
Statistics of boys' lower primary schools	33	46
Classification of pupils in upper and lower boys' primary schools according to religion	34	47
Stage of instruction of boys' upper and lower primary schools ...	35	48

	Page.	Para.
Lower Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination for boys' schools	35	49-50
Scholarships	36	51
Payments by results	37-38	52-53
Brief summary of the state of primary education	39	54
Ditto ditto ditto in Cachar	*ib.*	55
Ditto ditto ditto in Sylhet	40	56
Ditto ditto ditto in Khási and Jaintia Hills.	*ib.*	57
Ditto ditto ditto in Gáro Hills... ...	*ib.*	58
Ditto ditto ditto in Goálpára	*ib.*	59
Ditto ditto ditto in Kámrúp	41	60
Ditto ditto ditto in Darrang	*ib.*	61
Ditto ditto ditto in Nowgong	42	62
Ditto ditto ditto in Sibságar	*ib.*	63
Ditto ditto ditto in Lakhimpur ...	*ib.*	64
Ditto ditto ditto in Nága Hills ...	43	65

SECTION V.—School Education, Special.

Special schools	*ib.*	66
Normal „	*ib.*	67
Normal school certificate examination	44	68
Artizan School, Jorhát	45	69
Medical Scholarship	*ib.*	70
Mechanical Apprentice Scholarships	*ib.*	71

SECTION VI.—Female Education.

Comparison of girls' schools for the past two years	*ib.*	72
District statistics of girls' schools	46	73
Number of girls in boys' schools and total number of girls at school	47	74
Scholarship examination for all girls' schools	*ib.*	75
Classification of pupils in girls' schools according to religion ...	48	76
Stage of instruction of pupils in girls' schools	*ib.*	77
Sylhet Union	*ib.*	78

SECTION VII.—Education of Special Classes.

European and Eurasian Schools	49	79
Muhammadan Education	50	80-81
Phulbari Madrassa, Sylhet	*ib.*	82

SECTION VIII.—Private Schools.

District statistics of private schools	51	83

SECTION IX.—Preparation and Distribution of Text-Books.

Assamese Text-book Committee	52	84
Rewards given	*ib.*	85
Revised list of Assamese text-books	52-53	86

SECTION X.—General Statistical Tables.

Prescribed Statements.

Education General Table I.—Abstract return of schools and scholars.	i
Ditto ditto II.—Ditto on expenditure on Public Instruction...	ii & iii
Ditto ditto III.—Return of schools and scholars ...	iv & v
Ditto ditto IV.—Ditto of expenditure on public instruction	vi
Ditto ditto V.—Ditto of stages of instruction ...	vii
Ditto ditto VI.—Ditto of results of prescribed examinations	viii
Ditto ditto VII.—Ditto of distribution of Local and Municipal expenditure on public instruction	ix
Provincial Statement Result of Entrance Examination, Appendix A	x

Resolution of the Chief Commissioner on the Inspector's Report.

GENERAL REPORT ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1887-88.

SECTION I.—General Summary.

The most important features of the year's work was the further development of the system of maintaining and aiding lower primary schools under the Reward Rules, and the holding of a common Lower Primary Scholarship and Certificate Examinations for all plains districts, which for the first time was held in Assam; an account of these will be found under Primary Education; and also the holding of an Educational Conference in August at Shillong at which the scholarship, grant-in-aid, and other rules were revised, and many important matters discussed.

The following statement gives in a summary form the comparative statistics of all educational institutions that furnished returns :—

Class of instruction.		1886-87. Schools.	1886-87. Pupils.	1887-88. Schools.	1887-88. Pupils.
	Public Institutions.				
School Education, General.	Secondary boys — High schools	16	3,037	17	3,273
	Secondary boys — Middle English	45	4,031	45	3,886
	Secondary boys — „ Vernacular	47	3,455	45	3,316
	„ girls	4	123	2	72
	Primary — For boys	1,749	50,906	1,870	55,819
	Primary — „ girls	166	2,895	202	3,648
School Education, Special.	Normal schools, boys	13	382	12	362
	Industrial schools	1	23	1	20
	European and Eurasian schools	1	13	1	18
	Law schools	1	19	1	8
	Other schools	2	92	3	116
	Total	2,045	64,976	2,199	70,538
	Private Institutions.				
Arabic or Persian		30	630	25	525
Sanskrit		78	1,359	77	1,614
Elementary Vernacular	Boys	11	291	27	491
	Girls	1	14	1	13
Tols	Boys	1	18	.....	.....
Maktabs	Boys	115	2,101	117	2,251
	Girls	.....	.....	5	95
Other schools not conforming to Departmental Standard.	Boys	9	413	6	158
	Total	245	4,826	258	5,150
	Grand Total	2,290	69,802	2,457	75,688

From the above it appears that in public institutions there was a gain, 154 schools, or 7·5 per cent., and that the pupils increased by 5,562, or 8·5 per cent. Private institutions increased by 13, or 5·4 per cent., and the pupils by 321, or 6·7 per cent. On the whole, there was a gain of 167 schools, or 7·3 per cent., and 5,886 pupils, or 8·4 per cent.

The number of high schools rose from 16 to 17, and there was on an average 193 pupils to each school, against 189 in the preceding year. The number of Middle English schools remained the same; but the pupils fell off by 145. The loss of two middle vernacular boys' schools was due to the Dumuria unaided school, Goálpára, not having submitted returns, and the closing of the departmental school at Jaynagar in Cachar, and that of two middle girls' schools was due to the transfer of these schools to the lower primary list. Lower primaries show an increase of 157 schools and 5,666 pupils. The normal schools decreased by one, due to the closing of the Sylhet Normal School. The only other change under public institutions is that there are three schools classed as "Others" under the head "Special." There were two Sanskrit schools in Kámrúp and the Phulbári Madrasa in Sylhet.

Private institutions show both an increase in numbers and attendance; but much weight need not be attached to this, as the number reported depends very much on exertions of Sub-Inspectors of Schools, the teachers, as a rule, being not only indifferent, but sometimes unwilling to submit statistics, so that a fall or rise in their number depends chiefly on whether Sub-Inspectors were indifferent or not in urging the teachers to submit returns.

Total number of public schools and pupils.

2. The following statistics of public schools show the progress made in the last five years:—

	Schools.	Pupils.
1883-84	1,656	56,858
1884-85	1,800	58,755
1885-86	1,921	60,828
1886-87	2,045	64,976
1887-88	2,199	70,538

In five years the public schools increased by 543, or 33 per cent., and the pupils by 13,680, or 25 per cent. The private schools have not been taken into consideration, as they are mainly of a religious nature, and can scarcely be taken as an item of our educational system, and, besides, little reliance can be placed on the number returned.

Comparison of schools and pupils in each district.

3. The following table shows the number of public schools and pupils in each district, as also the average number of pupils to each school:—

District.	1885-86.			1886-87.			1887-88.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average per school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average per school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average per school.
Cachar ...	158	4,378	28	141	3,943	28	148	4,008	27
Sylhet ...	564	20,063	36	658	23,406	36	756	26,479	35
Goálpára ...	157	4,336	28	169	4,301	25	180	4,660	26
Kámrúp ...	293	9,086	31	309	9,740	32	314	10,859	35
Darrang ...	129	3,746	29	132	3,766	29	141	3,982	28
Nowgong	153	5,377	35	156	5,403	35	170	6 079	36
Sibságar ...	202	6,925	34	216	7,110	33	221	7,048	32
Lakhimpur ...	95	2,756	29	96	2,879	30	93	2,737	29
Khási Hills ...	128	3,518	29	131	3,784	29	134	3,788	28
Gáro „	36	524	15	34	515	15	31	643	21
Nága „ ...	11	119	11	2*	57	29	10	199	19
Manipur ...	...	.....	...	1	72	72	1	56	56
Total...	1,921	60,828	32	2,045	64,976	32	2,199	70,538	32

* Exclusive of those under Mission bodies, from whom no returns have been received.

In Cachar there was a gain of schools and pupils, but a falling off in the average number per school. In Sylhet, there was a large increase in the number of schools and pupils, chiefly due to the extension of the system of payment by rewards. In this district a large number of schools are paid by rewards alone. This has fostered the starting of a good many primary schools close to existing schools, or, in other words, competing schools; and thus, while the number of schools and pupils increased, the average per school has fallen from 36 to 35. In Kámrúp, both the number of schools and pupils have increased, and the average number of pupils per school has risen from 32 to 35. In this district, the combined system of payment by results has been extensively adopted, well worked, and the increase is, I believe, due to this. Nowgong and Goálpára also show general advancement; Darrang shows an increase of schools and pupils, but a falling off in the average number per school. Sibságar had a larger number of schools at work than in the preceding year, but there was a loss of pupils, and the average number per school fell from 33 to 32. Lakhimpur shows a loss in every way. The schools in the Khási and Jaintia Hills were much the same for the last two years. The Gáro Hills show a loss of schools, but a gain in the average number per school, the number having risen from 15

to 21. For the Nága Hills the figures for the last two years do not admit of comparison, as in 1886-87 the mission schools were not returned. To conclude, the progress in Kámrúp, and especially in Sylhet, is very satisfactory.

Classification according to religion.

4. The following statement shows the distribution of the population under the heads Hindus, Muhammadans, and others, the number of pupils attending school and the percentages on the population:—

District.	Population.			Number of pupils on 31st March.			Percentage of pupils to population.		
	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Others.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Others.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Others.
Cachar... Plains	140,573	92,393	44,900	1,778	1,033	1,197	1·26	1·12	1·72
Cachar... Hills	34	3	24,839						
Sylhet	906,326	1,015,531	24,591	18,055	7,699	725	1·99	·75	2·95
Gáro Hills ... Plains	6,033	4,135	12,367	.....	...	135	...	...	1·09
Gáro Hills ... Hills	.....	.....	85,634	81	55	507	...	...	·59
Goálpára	207,698	104,777	131,617	3,226	832	467	1·55	·79	·35
Kámrúp	403,138	50,452	162,802	9,283	1,095	481	2·30	2·17	·30
Darrang	159,789	15,504	96,733	3,420	229	333	2·14	1·48	·34
Nowgong	195,365	12,074	102,741	5,029	381	669	2·57	3·15	·65
Sibságar	311,147	15,665	34,454	6,228	526	294	2·00	3·36	·85
Lakhimpur	128,443	5,824	43,091	2,089	123	525	1·63	2·11	1·22
Khási and Jaintia Hills	2,344	570	163,226	193	35	3,560	8·23	6·14	2·18
Nága Hills Civil and Military ...	320	94	878	44	3	152	13·75	3·19	·16
Nága Hills Hills tribes	.....	.....	93,000						
Manipur*	.....	.....	.....	33*	23	...	...	...	...
Total	2,488,210	1,317,022	1,020,513	49,459	12,034	9,045	1·99	·91	·88
Total for last year	2,488,210	1,317,022	1,020,513	46,190	10,156	8,630	1·86	·77	·85

* Manipur is not included in the calculation of percentages.

The changes year by year are so small that they scarcely deserve notice. It is, however, satisfactory to see that, while Hindus have increased by 3,269, or 7 per cent., Muhammadans have also increased by 1,878, or 18 per cent., or proportionately more than their Hindu brethren.

Percentage of pupils in public schools on children of a school-going age.

5. In the subjoined table the number of boys and girls of a school-going age has been taken as 15 per cent. of the male and female population:—

District.	Males of school-going age.	Females of school-going age.	Pupils actually at school.		Percentage of males and females at school to males and females of a school-going age.	
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Cachar (including hill tracts)	25,040	22,038	3,894	114	15·55	·51
Sylhet	149,968	145,384	23,637	2,842	15·76	1·95
Gáro Hills	8,393	8,040	561	82	6·68	1·02
Khási and Jaintia Hills	12,081	13,323	2,657	1,131	21·99	8·49
Goálpára	34,372	32,562	4,428	232	12·88	·71
Kámrúp	49,359	47,385	10,294	565	20·86	1·19
Darrang	21,363	19,637	3,862	120	18·08	·61
Nowgong	24,072	22,515	5,750	329	23·88	1·46
Sibságar	29,279	26,262	6,589	459	22·50	1·75
Lakhimpur	14,450	12,534	2,646	91	18·31	·73
Nága Hills, Civil, Military, and Hill tracts	7,178	6,979	164	85	2·28	·61
Manipur	.....	.....	56*	.....	.....	...
Total	375,555	356,659	64,538	6,000	17·17	1·68
Total for last year	375,555	356,659	59,792	5,184	15·90	1·45

* Manipur is not included in calculation of percentages.

Comparing with last year's statement, we find an improvement to boys of 1·27 per cent. and to girls of ·23 per cent., against ·93 and ·16 per cent. respectively for the year before; the progress, though slow, is steady. Arranging the districts according to the percentage of children attending school, the Khási and Jaintia Hills again stand first, with 30·48 per cent., the same figure as for the year before; Nowgong has risen from third to second place with 25·34 per cent., against 22·5 per cent.; Sibságar has fallen from second to third, with 24·25 per cent., against 24·48 per cent.; Kámrúp has risen to fourth place, with 22·05 per cent., against 19·78 per cent.; Darrang stands next, with

18·69 per cent., against 17·68 per cent.; Lakhimpur stands sixth with 19·04 per cent., against 20·01 per cent., and has thus come down in the list; Sylhet has changed places with Cachar, and had 17·71 per cent., against 15·66 per cent.; then come, Cachar with 16·06 per cent., Goálpára with 13·59 per cent., and the Gáro Hills with 7·7 per cent., against 15·84, 12·56, and 6·16 per cent., respectively. With the exception of the Khási and Jaintia Hills, where there was no change, and Sibságar and Lakhimpur, where there was a loss of pupils, all other districts show improvement.

6. The following table gives an abstract of the statistics of attendance and cost for all classes of public schools for native children that have furnished returns:—

Summary for public schools, general.

Class of schools.	Number of schools.	Average roll number monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Percentage of attendance on average roll number.	Average yearly cost of educating each pupil.		Percentage of State cost on total cost of each class of schools.
					To the Government.	Total.	
High Schools.					Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	
Departmental	11	2,200	1,796	81·6	12 8 1	27 3 3	45·97
Aided	4	538	439	81·6	6 14 11	22 5 7	31·01
Unaided	2	471	366	77·7	.....	12 11 9	.....
Total	17	3,209	2,601	81·1	9 11 9	24 4 2	.....
Total for preceding year	16	3,066	2,525	82·4	10 10 10	24 6 6	.....
Middle English.							
Departmental	3	225	180	80·0	8 14 11	17 9 10	50·72
Aided	31	2,480	1,930	77·0	4 14 7	12 7 9	39·32
Unaided	11	934	642	68·7	....	10 12 7	.....
Total	45	3,639	2,752	75·6	3 14 4	12 5 10	.....
Total for preceding year	45	3,672	2,767	75·4	4 4 7	12 2 8	.....
Middle Vernacular.							
Departmental	15	1,313	1,097	83·5	6 11 11	10 7 7	64·40
Aided	32	1,798	1,427	79·4	3 12 3	8 14 10	42·20
Unaided	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	.....
Total	47	3,111	2,524	81·1	5 0 5	9 9 3	.....
Total for preceding year	51	3,207	2,514	78·4	5 3 1	9 10 8	.....
Upper Primary.							
Local Fund	13	520	395	76·0	3 6 6	4 11 0	72·66
Aided	89	3,193	2,150	76·7	3 3 1	5 14 3	54·19
Unaided	4	136	124	91·2	....	2 7 11	.....
Total	106	3,849	2,969	77·1	3 3 7	5 11 7	.....
Total for preceding year	111	4,221	3,148	74·6	2 14 8	5 3 10	.....
Lower Primary.							
Departmental	25	315	210	66·6	4 4 6	4 4 6	100
Local Fund	1,336	35,189	25,394	72·2	2 5 4	2 12 3	84·40
Aided	436	12,254	9,295	75·8	1 3 9	3 4 7	37·58
Unaided	169	3,718	3,052	82·0	.....	0 11 4	.....
Total	1,966	51,476	37,951	73·7	1 14 10	2 12 0	.....
Total for preceding year	1,804	46,137	33,248	72·1	2 0 9	2 13 2	.....

Comparing with the similar table in paragraph 6 of last year's report, it appears that the percentage of daily attendance on the average strength in high schools has fallen by 1·3, and that this is chiefly due to departmental schools; in all other classes of schools the percentage of daily attendance shows improvement. In high schools the percentage of the total cost borne by the State has fallen in departmental schools from 47·31 to 45·97 per cent., while in aided schools it has risen from 28·33 to 31 01 per cent. In middle English schools the percentage of the total cost borne by the State in departmental and aided schools fell from 57·42 and 41·95 per cent to 50·72 and 39·32 per cent; in middle Vernacular schools the percentages in departmental and aided schools fell from 65·01 and 47·62 to 64·4 and 42·2 per cent.; in upper primary schools the percentage in Local Board schools rose from 67·78 to 72·66 per cent.; while that in aided schools fell from 55·12 to 54·19 per cent.; the percentage in lower primary schools was practically the same, except in the case of the departmental schools, where the whole cost of maintenance fell on the State.

7. The following statement shows the gross expenditure on education for the last five years:—

Gross expenditure for five years.

	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
From Provincial ...	1,49,910	1,67,842	1,39,366	1,42,610	1,57,273
„ Local Rates Funds ...	1,21,507	1,36,666	1,51,779	1,55,187	1,52,781
„ Municipal Funds ...	3,772	3,791	4,392	4,702	5,459
Other sources ...	1,36,386	1,48,763	1,52,968	1,55,417	1,54,896
Total ...	4,11,575	4,57,062	4,48,505	4,57,916	4,70,409

In this table the provincial expenditure is the net charge, *i.e.*, the total amount drawn from the treasuries, less the receipts under the heads for which this expenditure was incurred. It includes Rs. 2,000 granted as a reward to Mr. Needham for his philological works, and Rs. 100 for the purchase of 200 copies of "Sylhet Darpang" (Geography of Sylhet) as an encouragement to the author, and Rs. 9,479 spent by the Public Works Department on original works and repairs to departmental school buildings, which sum was debited to the Public Works budget. The following are the details of Rs. 9,479:—In Cachar Rs. 263; in Sylhet Rs. 1,109; in the Khási Hills Rs. 587; in the Garo Hills Rs. 50; in Goálpára Rs. 224; in Kámrúp Rs. 671; in Darrang Rs. 212; in Nowgong Rs. 5,458, chiefly on the new school building; in Sibságar Rs. 216; and in Lakhimpur Rs. 659. In other years these sums were debited to Local Funds; thus for the year under report there was an extra expenditure of Rs. 11,579 under Provincial, which accounts for all but Rs. 3,084 of the increase. This balance was distributed in small sums over the several classes of schools, and also includes the expenditure on travelling allowance to the members of the Educational Conference. The expenditure from local rates and municipal funds are the actuals, as the receipts in the several classes of schools, aided, or maintained, from these funds are retained by the individual schools as part of their income.

The details of the expenditure from other sources are as follows:—

Details of other sources.

	1886-87.	1887-88.
	Rs.	Rs.
Goálpára Trust Fund	564	560
Williamson's ditto	3,005	3,647
Mohsin ditto	748	737
Vizianagram Scholarship Fund	(*a*)	(*c*)
Contributions by Welsh Mission, Khási and Jaintia Hills	22,316	24,585
„ „ American Mission, Gáro Hills	2,345	2,781
„ „ „ Nága „	(*b*)	631
„ „ other people	11,155	8,346
Subscriptions	22,713	22,214
Sale proceeds, Book Department	116	65
Fees in Assam schools	90,342	88,614
Examination-fees and fines for transfer of scholarships in Assam	827	1,233
Fees in Calcutta University	1,286	1,483
	1,55,417	1,54,896

(*a*) No scholarship awarded. (*b*) Returns not received. (*c*) Scholarship not taken up.

The points worthy of notice are (1) the steady increase of expenditure by the Welsh Mission, in the year 1883-84, their expenditure was Rs. 17,486, on 105 schools, or on an average Rs. 166 per school; last year they expended Rs. 24,585 on 133 schools, or, on an average, Rs. 184 per school; (2) the falling off of Rs. 2,809 under the head "Contributions

by other people." In last year's report it was noted that the unusually large increase for 1886-87 under this head was due to the district of Sylhet on account of expenditure for building school houses, chiefly for secondary schools. Such charges are, of course periodical, and not annual, and naturally Sylhet should account for the greater part of the deficit; the actual deficit in Sylhet came to Rs. 3,331. In Sibságar also there was a decrease under this head of Rs. 513. In other districts there were slight increases, which left the net decrease for the Province to be Rs. 2,809. (3) Fees in Assam schools show a decrease of Rs. 1,714; and (4) the increase under examination-fees and fines for transfer of scholarships amounting to Rs. 302.

Provincial budget and expenditure.

8. The following statement compares with the Provincial Budget estimate the actual expenditure as shown by this office and by the Comptroller's preliminary statement:—

Heads of charge.	Sanctioned revised budget estimate.	Expenditure as shown by department.	Expenditure shown by Comptroller's preliminary statement.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direction and Inspection	46,300	42,052	42,082
Government schools, general... High	60,600	59,445	77,504
Government schools, general... Middle	18,600	18,088	
Government schools, general... Primary	1,080	496	.....
Government schools, special ... Normal	12,700	11,926	11,925
Scholarships in Assam	7,700	9,550	9,550
Grants-in-aid	17,874	15,824	15,824
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Grants for encouragement of literature	1,500	2,484	6,908
Miscellaneous	7,646	4,424	
Total	1,74,000	1,63,793	1,63,793

The total expenditure, as shown by the Comptroller's preliminary statement and the books of this office, agree, but there are some slight differences under the details, *viz.*, the Comptroller's figures for inspection are greater by Rs. 30, and those for high and middle schools combined less by Rs. 30, than those shown by our books. No doubt, this is a misclassification, and will be corrected in his final. For Government primary schools (provincial) the Comptroller shows no expenditure, but his expenditure under grants-in-aid exceeds ours by Rs. 496, the exact amount shown by this office as expended on Government primary schools. Under grants-in-aid the full grant of Rs. 4,000 for the Shillong European and Eurasian School was drawn in a lump sum in the beginning of the year. Of this, Rs. 1,191 still remains unexpended, and stands in the treasury to the personal ledger account of the Secretary. This sum will be refunded, and treated as a receipt by the Comptrol Department for the year 1888-89. It has also been shown by that department as an expenditure for 1887-88, but has not been thus shown in any of the subsequent tables in this report.

Local Budgets and expenditure.

9. In the following statement, which shows the Local Fund budget estimates and expenditure as returned by the Boards, and the Comptroller's preliminary statement, the details have been left out, and in this respect it differs from the statement in paragraph 9 of last year's report:—

District.	Sanctioned budget estimate.	Expenditure as returned by Local Boards and used in this report.	Expenditure as per Comptroller's preliminary statement.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cachar	16,727	13,595	13,596
Sylhet	44,508	44,672	44,795
Goálpára	18,043	15,277	15,322
Kámrúp	26,663	26,717	26,767
Darrang	12,210	10,385	10,360
Nowgong	15,160	14,238	14,537
Sibságar	21,217	17,869	18,295
Lakhimpur	11,654	10,028	10,000
Grand Total	1,66,152	1,52,781	1,53,672

As none of the accounts of expenditure pass through this office, I have no means of reconciling the discrepancies, and have to accept the district figures for the purpose of this report, as only the totals are supplied to this office by the Comptrol Department

Direct expenditure per head of population for each district.

16. In the following statement, which contrasts the direct expenditure per head of population in each district, the expenditure under the heads Direction and Inspection, Buildings, Scholarships held in Bengal colleges and technical schools, University, and general miscellaneous, which came to Rs. 1,02,706, have been excluded, as they come under indirect expenditure, but scholarships held in Assam schools have been included, as the expenditure on these form a direct expenditure in each district. The details of Rs. 1,02,706 are given in General Table IV. of the prescribed forms, and need not be repeated here:—

District.	Area in square miles.	Population.	People to a square mile.	Number of schools.	Number of pupils.	Square miles to a school.	People to a school.
Cachar { Plains	1,285	289,425	225	148	4,008	25	2,121
Cachar { Hill tracts	2,465	24,433	10				
Sylhet	5,440	1,969,009	362	756	26,479	7	2,605
Gáro Hills { Plains	473	23,914	51	7	135	67	3,416
Gáro Hills { Hills	3,180	85,634	27	31	643	103	2,762
Goálpára	3,897	446,232	114	173	4,525	22	2,579
Kámrúp	3,631	614,960	178	314	10,859	12	2,054
Darrang	3,418	273,333	80	141	3,982	24	1,938
Nowgong	3,417	310,579	91	170	6,079	20	1,827
Sibságar	2,855	370,274	130	221	7,018	13	1,675
Lakhimpur	3,723	179,893	48	93	2,737	40	1,934
Khási and Jaintia Hills	6,157	169,360	27	134	3,788	46	1,264
Nága Hills { Civil and Military	6,400	1,380	15	10	199	640	9,488
Nága Hills { Hill tracts		93,000					
Manipur*	8,000	221,070	27	1	56	8,000	221070
Total	46,341	4,881,426	105	2,198	70,482	21	2,221
Total for 1886-87	46,341	4,881,426	105	2,044	64,904	23	2,388

District.	Average number of pupils to a school.	People to each pupil.	Direct expenditure.		Direct expenditure per head of population.	
			Net expenditure to the Government.	Other sources.	To Government.	Other sources.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Cachar { Plains	27	78	17,568	5,735	0 0 11	0 0 4
Cachar { Hill tracts						
Sylhet	35	74	52,044	51,871	0 0 5	0 0 5
Gáro Hills { Plains	19	177	301	169	0 0 2	0 0 1
Gáro Hills { Hills	21	133	3,079	2,389	0 0 7	0 0 5
Goálpára	26	99	16,844	10,655	0 0 7	0 0 5
Kámrúp	35	59	34,565	18,414	0 0 10	0 0 5
Darrang	28	69	17,759	5,470	0 1 0	0 0 4
Nowgong	36	51	18,163	5,601	0 0 11	0 0 3
Sibságar	32	53	21,114	17,126	0 0 11	0 0 9
Lakhimpur	29	66	13,608	7,097	0 1 3	0 0 8
Khási and Jaintia Hills	28	45	15,642	29,037	0 1 6	0 2 9
Nága Hills { Civil and Military	19	474	2,045	576	0 0 1	0 0 1
Nága Hills { Hills tracts						
Manipur*	56	3,948	360	521	....	.....
Total	32	69	2,12,732	1,54,090	0 0 8	0 0 6
Total for 1886-87	32	75	2,08,964	1,52,407	0 0 8	0 0 6

* Manipur has been excluded from the totals, as education in Manipur does not form part of our educational system. Under special circumstances aid was given to one middle English school.

Comparison of total expenditure in different provinces.

11. The following table which contrasts the gross expenditure per head of population for Assam with that for other provinces shows no change, as far as Assam is concerned:—

Province.	Area in square miles.	Population.	People to a square mile.	Number of schools.	Number of pupils.	Square miles to a school.	People to a school.	Average number of pupils to a school.	People to each pupil.	Expenditure.		Expenditure per head of population.	
										Net expenditure to the State.	Other sources.	To the State.	Other sources.
										Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Assam for 1887-88*	46,341	4,881,426	105	2,198	70,482	21·0	2,221	32	69	3,09,694	1,59,834	0 1 0	0 0 6
Do 1886-87*	46,341	4,881,426	105	2,044	64,904	23·0	2,388	32	75	2,97,333	1,59,847	0 1 0	0 0 6
Bengal Do	165,775	68,160,598	411	53,121	316,594	3·1	1,283	25	52	31,40,440	47,46,943	0 0 9	0 1 1
Central Provinces, 1886-87	113,279	11,548,511	102	1,891	106,952	59·9	6,107	57	108	5,38,797	2,80,431	0 0 9	0 0 4
North-Western Provinces and Oudh for 1886-87	106,111	44,107,869	42	6,021	252,526	17·6	7,326	42	175	18,94,734	9,73,571	0 0 8	0 0 4
British Burma for 1886-87	87,220	3,736,771	43	5,046	112,663	17·3	741	22	33	3,94,219	5,43,365	0 1 8	0 2 4
Hyderabad " "	17,711	2,672,673	151	962	43,321	18·4	2,778	45	62	3,49,454	71,120	0 2 1	0 0 5

* Exclusive of Manipur.

Comparison of details of expenditure for two years according to different classes of schools.

12. The following statement, which includes all charges debited to Education, shows in a general form the expenditure for the last two years:—

	1886-87.							1887-88.						
	Provincial.	Local Fund.	Municipal.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowment and other sources.	Total.	Provincial.	Local Fund.	Municipal.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowment and other sources.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Government schools	54,954	90,876	2,693	55,979	2,776	3,774	2,11,052	55,030	89,295	3,036	51,060	2,682	4,730	2,05,833
2. Aided	10,243*	36,047	1,943	26,343	17,257*	19,671*	1,11,504*	9,759*	39,661	1,810	30,668	17,811*	21,245	1,20,954*
3. Unaided	....	....	..	8,020	2,087	11,614	21,721	....	9	250	6,886	873	12,686	20,704
4. Scholarships	24,941	8,269	..	....	....	839	34,049	34,199	9,788	..	..	....	1,284	25,071
5. Direction and inspection, &c.	52,472	19,995	66	2,113	593	4,351	79,590	58,285	14,028	363	2,716	848	1,497	77,647
Total	1,42,610	1,55,187	4,702	92,455	22,713	40,249	4,57,916	1,57,273	1,52,781	5,459	91,330	22,214	41,352	4,79,409

* Includes expenditure on the middle English school at Manipur.

Comparing the two years, we find an increase of Rs. 12,257 to Provincial and Local funds combined, an increase of Rs. 757 to Municipal Funds, but a decrease of Rs. 521 in all other sources combined; or a net increase of Rs. 12,493. Under Provincial, the increase of expenditure occurs under the heads, (1) Scholarships, due to the large number of boys who passed the Entrance Examination in 1887 from the Brahmaputra Valley schools, and obtained junior sholarships, and (2) to Direction, Inspection, Buildings, &c. From the 1st of April 1887 the Government school-houses, with their attached buildings, were transferred from head Local to Provincial. The expenditure on this head alone, as returned by the Public Works Department, came to Rs. 9,479, which more than accounts for the increase. This transfer has accordingly reduced the expenditure from Local Funds under this head. Under Local Funds, the expenditure on Government schools shows a slight decrease, while the expenditure on aided schools has increased, showing that the Boards devoted their attention more to aiding private enterprise than increasing the number of Government schools, and thus followed the policy recommended by the Education Commission, and approved of by the Government of India. The decrease under Direction and Inspection has already been noticed. The remaining point worthy of notice is the decrease in the receipts from fees, *viz.*, Rs. 1,134, due to unaided schools, which is more than accounted for by the Dumuria Middle Vernacular School, Goálpára, not submitting returns, and the transfer of some schools in Sibságar from the head "Public Institutions" to the head "Private;" and Rs. 1,125 due to Government schools.

Direct expenditure according to class of school.

13. The following statement shows the direct expenditure on schools according to their status for the last two years:—

Class of school.	1886-87.						
	Provincial.	Local.	Municipal.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments, &c.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Secondary	*32,611	24,564	1,702	60,981	*15,063	*15,586	*1,50,507
Primary	9,152	95,174	2,624	22,213	6,905	16,415	1,52,483
Special	23,434	7,185	310	7,148	152	3,058	41,287
Total	65,197	1,26,923	4,636	90,342	22,120	35,059	3,44,277

Class of school.	1887-88.						
	Provincial.	Local.	Municipal.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments, &c.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Secondary	*38,515	22,262	1,925	62,483	13,334	*14,316	*1,52,835
Primary	8,992	1,00,166	2,738	23,769	7,713	19,772	1,63,150
Special	17,282	6,537	433	2,362	319	4,573	31,506
Total	64,789	1,28,965	5,096	88,614	21,366	38,661	3,47,491

* Includes expenditure on the middle English school at Manipur.

Comparing the expenditure from Provincial, Local, and Municipal Funds for the two years, we find that the sum of these came to Rs. 1,98,850, against Rs. 1,96,746 for the year 1886-87, that from this sum the expenditure on secondary schools was 31·5 per cent., against 29·8 per cent.; on primary schools 56·2 per cent., against 54·3 per cent.; and on special schools 12 1 per cent, against 15·7 per cent. We thus see that more than half of the State expenditure was on primary education, and remembering that most of the State expenditure on special schools is for the preparation of teachers for primary schools, we may broadly say that about 65 per cent. of direct State expenditure is towards primary education.

Comparison of cost of each class of school for the last two years.

14. The following statement shows in detail the actual cost of teaching in each class of schools and the average number taught. In the table for 1887-88, Rs. 160 on account of an abolished aided middle Vernacular school in Cachar, and Rs. 9 from Local Funds paid on account of a guru training class in an unaided school in Goálpára have been excluded, adding these Rs. 169

to the total expenditure, Rs. 3,47,322, it agrees with that shown in paragraph 12 under Government, Aided, and Unaided Schools. The changes between the two years are so trifling that no comments seem needed, except in the case of the Williamson Artizan School at Jorhát, and the increase here is chiefly due to only eleven establishment bills being cashed in 1886-87, against 13 establishment bills in 1887-88.

	1886-87.						
	Number of schools.	Average number on rolls.	Cost.				
			Government.	Local.	Others.	Total.	Cost per head.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.
High	16	3,066	21,090	5,512	48,231	7,483	24 6 6
Middle English (boys)*	45	3,672	2,812	12,931	28,931	44,674	12 2 8
„ Vernacular „	47	3,102	8,622	6,404	13,672	28,698	9 4 2
Upper Primary „	109	4,159	.....	12,081	9,524	21,605	5 3 2
Lower „ „	1,640	43,418	8,232	79,745	33,542	1,21,519	2 12 9
Normal	13	349	14,515	7,185	1,180	22,880	65 8 11
Middle Vernacular (girls)	4	105	.....	1,635	667	2,302	21 14 9
Upper Primary „	2	62	.....	228	289	517	8 5 5
Lower „	164	2,719	685	5,744	2,178	8,607	3 2 8
Europeans and Eurasians	1	12	3,863	.....	2,969	6,832	569 5 4
Williamson Artizan School.	1	22	.....	.....	1,933	1,933	87 13 10
Law schools	1	21	.....	.....	1,100	1,100	52 6 1
Other special schools	2	116	.....	.....	520	520	4 7 9
Total	2,045	60,823	59,819	1,31,465	1,44,736	3,36,020	5 8 5

	1887-88.						
	Number of schools.	Average number on rolls.	Cost.				
			Government.	Local.	Others.	Total.	Cost per head.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.
High	17	3,209	27,514	3,729	46,631	77,874	24 4 2
Middle English (boys) *	45*	3,639*	2,146*	12,039	30,814*	44,999*	12 5 10
„ Vernacular „	45	3,058	8,855	6,324	13,797	28,976†	9 7 7
Upper Primary „	106	3,849	.....	11,967	9,626	21,593	5 11 7
Lower „ „	1,764	47,923	8,229	84,231	38,145	1,30,605	2 11 7
Normal	12	352	14,167	6,528‡	1,882	22,577	64 2 3
Middle Vernacular (girls)	2	53	.....	450	376	826	15 9 4
Upper Primary „	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lower „	202	3,553	763	5,355	4,834	10,952	3 1 4
Europeans and Eurasians	1	9	3,115	.....	1,784	4,899	544 5 4
Williamson's Artizan School.	1	22	.....	.....	2,586	2,586	117 8 9
Law schools	1	8	.....	.....	670	670	83 12 0
Other special schools	3	101	.....	.....	765	765	7 9 2
Total	2,199	65,776	64,789	1,30,623	1,51,910	3,47,322	5 4 6

* Includes the middle English school at Manipur.
† Exclusive of Rs. 160 for a middle Vernacular School in Cachar (Rs. 80 from Local and Rs. 80 from private sources), abolished during the year.
‡ Exclusive of Rs. 9 Local, paid as rewards for training gurus at an unaided middle Vernacular school in Goalpara.

IA.—Recommendations of the Education Commission.

15. Under the orders of the Government of India in the Home Department, dated the 24th October 1885, a section treating on the measures adopted during the year for carrying out the recommendations of the Education Commission is given.

16. In last year's report an account of what has been done under each head was given, and I have only this year to add a brief account of the work done by the Educational Conference that was held at Shillong in August last. The subjects that came before the members of the Conference were the revision (1) of the Lower Primary, the Upper Primary, the Middle, and the Junior and the Senior Scholarship Rules; (2) the Grant-in-aid Rules for upper primary and middle schools; (3) Rules for payment by results in lower primary schools; (4) Reward Rules for granting aid to *tols* and *maktabs*; (5) the scholarship and pass certificate course of study for the several classes of schools; (6) the course of study for normal schools; (7) the Inter school Rules, *i.e.*, the regulations governing the transfer of pupils from one school to another. (8) Certain proposals regarding the encouragement and extension of female education. (9) A proposal to hold a general Lower Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination every fifth year, with a view to introduce uniformity of standard, and to compare the progress of education in the several districts; and (10) the revival of the Text-Book Committee, Nowgong, for the purpose of the examination of Assamese text-books. The Conference consisted of eight non-official and nine official members, with the Inspector of Schools as President. A report of the recommendations of the Conference was submitted by the President to the Government of Assam in the beginning of September, and towards the end of October orders were passed on all the proposals, except those for female education, which seemed to require further consideration. The proposals of the Conference were in the main accepted. The most important changes are—(1) those in rules for payment by results in lower primary schools, where the rate of reward for passing in each subject was raised, the course in arithmetic was remodelled on the basis of laying greater stress on native methods, both written and mental, and more liberal terms are offered to schools that elect to be paid by rewards alone; (2) those in the scholarship and pass certificate rules for lower primary, upper primary, and middle schools, where the courses have been modified with a view to greater simplicity, and the introduction of the Subhankari Rules under mental arithmetic: the marks for each group of subjects were also recast; (3) the revision of the Grant-in-aid Rules for upper primary and middle schools, with the view to make them more definite and popular; and (4) the revision of the Junior and Senior Scholarship Rules. On certain representations, it was found that the revised Junior and Senior Scholarship Rules pressed hard on others than natives of the Province, and in June last the Chief Commissioner made some further alterations, allowing more liberal terms to this section of the community. A general examination for lower primary scholarships and pass certificates was held in March, an account of which will be found under "Primary Schools," paragraphs 49 and 50.

The budget provisions and expenditure for the last five years stood as follows:—

		Budget Estimate.	Expenditure.
		Rs	Rs
1883-84 ...	Provincial	1,65,086	1,61,031
	Local	1,20,263	1,15,126
1884-85 ...	Provincial	1,67,500	1,63,906
	Local	1,36,590	1,30,737
1885-86 ..	Provincial	1,70,000	1,62,234
	Local	1,58,645	1,40,429
1886-87 ...	Provincial	1,83,000	1,65,013
	Local	1,68,813	1,51,605
1887-88 ...	Provincial	1,74,000	1,63,793
	Local	1,66,152	1,52,781
1888-89 ..	Provincial	1,83,000	.....
	Local	1,54,292	.....

These figures do not include the amount spent by the Public Works Department on repairs and original buildings.

SECTION II.—Controlling Agencies.

17. During the year I was 140 days on tour, and paid 166 visits to schools, distributed as follows: To high schools 27 visits; to middle English and middle Vernacular schools 12 and 21 visits; to normal schools 10 visits; to upper and lower primary schools 9 and 85 visits; and to special schools 3 visits. Besides this, I inspected all the sadr Local Boards' accounts, and all the sub-divisional ones, except North Lakhimpur, Barpeta, Goálpára, and Karimganj. Unavoidable circumstances prevented my inspecting the three latter Local Boards. I would have been quite another month on tour, but was detained at Shillong at the Educational Conference held in August.

Inspection by each Deputy and Sub Inspector.

18. The following table shows the work done by each Deputy and Sub-Inspector of Schools during the year:—

District.	Officer.	Area of district.	Number of schools on 1st April 1888, according to last year's return.	Number of schools at work on 31st March 1888.	Number of days on tour.	Visits paid.	Miles travelled.
Cachar ...	Deputy-Inspector	3,750	141	148	141	148	1,028
	Sub-Inspector, Cachar	..	78	43	133	133	777
	„ Hailákándi	...	61	61	278	283	1,804
Sylhet ...	Deputy-Inspector	5,356	658	756	187	198	1,931
	First Sub-Inspector, Habiganj	969	75	75	261	307	1,726
	Second Ditto ditto		76	78	252	290	1,983
	First Ditto Karimganj	1,033	159	202	269	264	1,677
	Ditto Sunámganj	1,415	80	89	222	261	2,440
	Ditto North Sylhet	1,051	130	159	205	281	1,567
	Ditto South „	888	136	147	246	336	1,987
Khási and Jaintia Hills.	Deputy-Inspector	6,157	.....	134	...	...	...
	Sub-Inspector, Khási Hills		131	79	215	178	1,625
	Ditto, Jowai		.....	55	211	136	1,473
Gáro Hills....	Sub-Inspector	3,643	34	31	270	99	2,565
Goálpára ...	Deputy-Inspector	3,897	169	180	209	328	2,702
	Sub-Inspector, Goálpára	...	76	85	200	270	2,153
	Ditto Dhubri	...	93	93	189	193	1,753
Kámrúp ...	Deputy-Inspector	3,631	309	314	160	194	1,505
	Sub-Inspector, North Bank, Gauháti	2,431	126	123	302	263	1,772
	Ditto South ditto		88	94	193	211	1,389
	Ditto Barpeta	1,200	95	97	214	225	1,671
Darrang ...	Deputy-Inspector	3,418	132	141	169	157	1,679
	Sub-Inspector, Mangaldai	...	59	74	173	160	1,073
Nowgong...	Deputy-Inspector	3,750	156	170	223	263	1,668
	Sub-Inspector (Jagi)	...	69	75	293	292	1,902
Sibságar ...	Deputy-Inspector	2,855	216	221	29	35	267
	Sub-Inspector, Golághát	947	57	58	233	206	1,698
	Ditto Jorhát	926	81	85	222	235	1,668
	Ditto Sibságar	982	73	74	211	289	2,272
Lakhimpur	Deputy-Inspector	3,147	96	93	142	92	1,242
					26†	40†	386†
	Sub-Inspector, Dibrugarh	2,040	58	48	217	131	1,768
	Ditto North Lakhimpur	1,107	37	44	245	187	2,065

* During the absence on leave of Babu Sasidhar Barkagoti, permanent Deputy-Inspector of Schools, Sibságar, from 13th June 1887 to 12th September, and from 4th January to 31st March 1888, the Deputy-Inspector of Lakhimpur was in charge of the Sibságar district.

† 26 days on tour, 40 visits paid to schools, and 386 miles travelled while in charge of Sibságar district.

Deputy-Inspectors were on an average just 161 days on tour, varying from 29 days for Babu Sasidhar Barkagoti, the Deputy-Inspector, Sibságar, to 223 days for Babu Ráj Kumar Majumdar, Deputy-Inspector of Nowgong, against an average of 170 days for the year before. Babu Sasidhar Barkagoti, Deputy-Inspector, Sibságar, was on privilege leave from the 13th June to the 12th September, and on sick leave from the 4th January to the end of the year, or in all five months and twenty-seven days, and during this period Babu Ratnadhar Datta, Deputy-Inspector, Lakhimpur, was in charge of the district of Sibságar in addition to his other work. Even taking into consideration the time Babu Sasidhar Barkagoti was on leave, still his inspection work for the remainder of the year was very unsatisfactory. If this Babu's work be excluded, the remaining seven Deputy-Inspectors were on an average 179 days on tour. The average number of visits

paid by Deputy-Inspectors to schools was 194, against 196 for the year before, or, excluding the 35 visits paid by the Deputy-Inspector of Sibságar, 217 for the remaining seven men.

Babu Giris Chandra Datta, Deputy-Inspector, Cachar, went on leave on the 19th February, which accounts for the comparatively short time he was on tour, 141 days. With the exception of Babu Sasidhar Barkagoti, Deputy-Inspector of Sibságar, whose inspection work has already been commented upon, Babu Ratnadhar Datta, Deputy-Inspector, Lakhimpur, who made only 132 visits to schools, and Babu Jagad Bandhu Sen, Deputy-Inspector, Darrang, who only paid 157 visits to schools, the work of the other Deputy-Inspectors has been satisfactory, especially that of Babu Nava Kisor Sen, Deputy-Inspector, Sylhet, and Babu Hari Mohan Láhari, Deputy-Inspector, Kámrúp. In passing this opinion I have considered their general work quite as much as the number of visits paid or number of days on tour.

Sub-Inspectors were on an average 228 days on tour, and on an average paid 227 visits to schools, against 201 days on tour and 236 visits in the year before. The introduction of the Reward Rules tended, no doubt, in no small degree to diminish the number of visits to schools, as holding a reward examination takes from three to five hours according to the number of pupils, so that a Sub-Inspector cannot hold more than one, or two if schools are close, of these examinations in the same day, instead of paying, as was sometimes done, four or even five hurried visits in the one day. I need scarcely say that when a Sub-Inspector makes four or five visits to schools in the same day, these visits are practically useless; but when schools are close together, and not large, a Sub-Inspector can easily hold two examinations for rewards in the same day, for, by sending previous information to the gurus he can hold one examination in the morning and a second in the afternoon. Babu Kali Ram Barua, Sub-Inspector, North Gauháti, again heads the list with 302 days on tour; Babu Bhadra Sen Barua, Sub-Inspector, Nowgong, comes next with 293 days on tour, and 292 visits. This is a great improvement on last year's work, when the number of days on tour was 197, with 198 visits. Babu Behari Lal Dhur, Sub Inspector, Hailákándi, comes next with 278 days on tour and 283 visits. Then comes the Officiating Sub-Inspector of the Gáro Hills, with 270 days and 99 visits Babu Gopi Charan Datta, Sub-Inspector of Karimganj, and Babu Sri Nath Ghose, Sub Inspector, Habiganj, come next with 269 and 261 days on tour. Thus, out of the twenty-three Sub-Inspectors, only six have reached the prescribed number of days on tour, *viz.*, 260. The Sub-Inspector of Cachar was only 133 days on tour; but, besides inspection work, he had also to do the office work of the Deputy-Inspector of Schools; he was, in fact, joint clerk and Sub-Inspector. The Sub-Inspector of Dhubri was only 9 months in office, and the Sub-Inspector, South Gauháti, was on leave for two months. This accounts for the small number of days on tour of both these officers. Of all Sub-Inspectors, the Mangaldai man shows the worst work; but he pleads continual attacks of fever as an excuse. On the whole, the work of inspection shows an improvement over that of the preceding year, for, though the average number of visits per Sub-Inspector fell from 236 to 223, I am convinced that the inspections made during the year under report were more thorough than those in the year before.

Details of inspection of Deputy- and Sub-Inspectors

19. The following table shows the number of schools under inspection on the 31st March, the number closed during the year, and the visits paid by Deputy and Sub-Inspectors:—

Upper and Lower Primary Schools (Government Aided and Unaided).

District.	Number of schools on 31st March 1888.	Number of schools abolished during the year.	Number of schools visited.				Number of existing schools not visited.	Number of abolished schools visited.	Number of abolished schools not visited.
			Four or more times.	Thrice.	Twice.	Once.			
Cachar	142	1	87	24	13	10	8	1	...
Sylhet	714	93	135	117	262	162	38	86	7
Khási Hills	125	2	12	64	24	14	11	...	2
Gáro	30	15	4	7	10	3	6	10	5
Goálpára	165	19	118	17	21	9	...	11	8
Kámrúp	296	23	59	69	139	29	...	16	7
Darrang	130	11	25	26	34	21	24	...	11
Nowgong	154	16	59	55	16	24	...	8	8
Sibságar	212	39	83	54	59	16	...	29	10
Lakhimpur	85	21	48	5	8	24	...	9	12
Total	2,053	240	630	438	586	312	87	170	70

Middle English and Vernacular Schools (Government, Aided, and Unaided).

District.	Number of schools on 31st March 1888.	Number of schools abolished during the year.	Number of schools visited.				Number of existing schools not visited.	Number of abolished schools visited.	Number of abolished schools not visited.
			Four or more times.	Thrice.	Twice.	Once.			
Cachar	3	2	1	.....	1	1	.....	1	1
Sylhet	35	1	19	7	8	1	.....	.....	1
Khási Hills	5	1	.....	2	1	1	1	.....	1
Goálpára	14	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kámrúp	12	1	7	2	3	.....	.....	1	.....
Darrang	7	.....	3	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong	4	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibságar	5	4	3	.....	1	1	.....	4	.....
Lakhimpur	6	.....	4	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Total	91	9	55	12	15	7	1	6	3

Normal and Special Schools (exclusive of Law Schools).

Cachar	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Gáro Hills	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kámrúp	4	.....	1	.....	1	2	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	3	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibságar	2	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	14	.....	5	2	2	3	1	.....	.....

The table does not include the European and Eurasian School at Shillong, or the Normal School at Cherra Punji, which for inspection purposes are not under the Sub-Inspector of Schools. The return for Goálpára includes the seven Gáro schools in the outskirts of the Gáro Hills, which are under the American Mission at Tura, as also the visits paid to these schools by the Sub-Inspector of the Gáro Hills. The total number of primary schools, as shown in paragraph 1, is 2,072. Nine of these, situated in the Nága Hills, are excluded from the above return for inspection of primary schools, as they are not under any Deputy or Sub-Inspector, and also 10 Mikir schools in Nowgong under the American Mission, as I have not received the number of visits paid to these schools by the Deputy-Inspector of Schools, Nowgong. Of the remaining 2,053 primary schools, 630, or 30 per cent., were visited four times or oftener; 438, or 21 per cent., three times; 586, or 28 per cent., twice; 312, or 15 per cent., once; and 87, or 4 per cent., were not visited at all. In the Khási and Jaintia Hills the Deputy-Inspector of Schools retired on medical certificate, the post of the Deputy-Inspector was abolished, and in place thereof two Sub-Inspectors were appointed on the grounds that the schools in these hills are so scattered, and communication so bad, that one man could not thoroughly do the inspection work; but even with two Sub-Inspectors the work has been slack, 11 schools not having been visited, and only 12 schools four or more times. Except in a few instances, there seems to me to be now no reason why every school should not be visited once a quarter by one or other of the Sub-Inspectors, their attention has been called to this. In Darrang, out of 130 primary schools, 24 were not visited by either the Deputy or Sub-Inspector. This speaks badly for these men's inspection work. In Sylhet, the 38 unvisited primary schools were started towards the end of the year, and there was not time to visit them after their existence had been reported to the several Sub-Inspectors. In Cachar 8 and in the Gáro Hills 6 primary schools were not visited. The district reports furnish no explanation as to the cause of this. Middle and special schools were, on the whole, regularly inspected, except in Sibságar, where it appears only two visits were paid to the local normal school. In Nowgong, the normal school is attached to the sadr Vernacular middle school, and the Deputy-Inspector considered his visits to the normal school as also paid to the middle school, and has entered them under that head.

IV.—School Education, General.

(*a*)—*Secondary Schools.*

20. Under secondary schools are included high and middle schools. High or Entrance schools usually consist of seven classes, and teach up to the University Entrance Examination. Middle schools are divided into middle English and middle Vernacular schools; the course of instruction is the same in both, with the addition that in middle English schools English is added on to the full Vernacular course. The following statement

compares some of the statistics of secondary schools for native boys for the last two years:—

	1886-87.			1887-88.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number of pupils to a school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number of pupils to a school.
High English—						
Departmental	10	2,129	212	11	2,252	205
Aided	3	382	127	4	543	136
Unaided	3	526	175	2	478	239
Total	16	3,037	189	17	3,273	193
Middle English—						
Departmental	3	242	81	3	237	79
Aided	29	2,559	88	31	2,680	86
Unaided	13	1,230	94	11	969	88
Total.....	45	4,031	89	45	3,886	86
Middle Vernacular—						
Departmental	16	1,495	93	15	1,411	94
Aided	29	1,789	62	30	1,905	63
Unaided	2	171	85	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	47	3,455	74	45	3,316	74
Grand Total.....	108	10,523	98	107	10,475	98

The increase of one departmental high school is due to the raising of the status of the Shillong Middle English School. There were only 65 names on the rolls on the 31st March, and this has brought down the average number of pupils per school. If the Shillong High School be excluded, the average per school for the remaining ten schools is 218, which is slightly better than that for last year. The aided high schools increased by one, due to the raising of the status of the Sunámganj Middle English School; and the loss of an unaided high school is due to the closing of the Habiganj institution. On the whole, for high schools there is an increase of one school, 236 pupils, and on an average, 4 pupils per school. The total number of middle English schools remained the same, but the number of pupils decreased by 145, and the average number per school by three. The middle Vernacular schools show a loss of two schools and 139 pupils. For all secondary schools there is a loss of one school and 48 pupils. The details of the middle schools will be treated of later on under their respective heads.

21. The following table shows the progress of departmental high schools for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of departmental high schools.	Roll number on the 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure			Cost of educating each pupil.		
					From the State.	Fees and other sources.	Total.	To the State.	From fees, fines, and other sources.	Total.
					Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1883-84	9	2,113	1,900	1,566	21,280	28,225	49,505	11 3 2	14 13 9	26 0 11
1884-85	9	2,084	2,064	1,709	20,072	29,360	49,432	9 11 7	14 3 7	23 15 2
1885-86	10	2,271	2,145	1,781	21,941	30,323	52,264	10 3 8	14 2 2	24 5 10
1886-87	10	2,129	2,138	1,788	23,738	32,410	56,148	11 1 8	15 2 7	26 4 3
1887-88	11	2,252	2,200	1,796	27,514	32,337	59,851	12 8 1	14 11 2	27 3 3

This table differs from that in paragraph 29 of last year's report in that the amounts spent by the Public Works Department on ordinary repairs and renewals have been brought to account. Fees and other sources include municipal contributions, the amount spent on the repairs of the Jorhát High School from the Williamson Trust Fund, and the interest of the Goálpára School Fund. The increased cost of these schools in the year under report was due to the establishment of the Shillong High School and the increments of pay to head-masters.

22. The following table shows in fuller details the statistics of high schools for the year under report, together with abstracts for the preceding year:—

Statistics of high schools in each district.

District.	Name of school.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils.			Direct expenditure.				Cost of educating each pupil.		
			On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	From Government. Provincial.	From Government. Local.	From fees and fines and other sources.	Total.	To Government.	To the public.	Total.
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs A. P.
DEPARTMENTAL.												
Cachar	Silchar	1	156	159	125	3,511	....	1,886	5,397	22 1 4	11 13 9	33 15 1
Sylhet	Sylhet	1	364	351	293	4,434	....	5,675	10,109	12 10 1	16 2 8	28 12 9
Khási Hills	Shillong	1	66	61	44	1,255	....	795	2,050	20 3 11	13 0 6	33 4 5
Goálpára	Dhubri	1	127	124	108	1,046	....	2,630	4,676	16 8 0	21 3 4	37 11 4
Kámrúp	Gauháti	1	341	346	284	2,271	....	5,782	8,053	6 0 0	16 11 5	23 4 5
Darrang	Tezpur	1	185	178	129	3,227	....	1,919	5,146	18 10 5	11 1 6	29 11 11
Nowgong	Nowgong	1	184	140	151	2,681	....	2,244	4,925	14 14 4	12 7 6	27 5 10
Sibságar	Sibságar	1	260	245	211	2,336	....	3,482	5,818	9 8 7	14 3 5	23 12 0
"	Jorhát	1	281	258	215	654	....	4,266‡	4,920	2 8 7	16 8 7	19 1 2
Lakhimpur	Dibrugarh	1	288	269	215	3,285	....	3,658	6,943	12 3 8	13 9 7	25 13 0
Nága Hills	Kohima	1	41	34	21	1,834	....	.....	1,834	53 15 1	.....	53 15 1
Total of Departmental Schools		11	2,202	2,200	1,796	27,514*	....	32,337	59,851	12 8 1	14 11 2	27 3 3
Ditto ditto for 1886-87		10	2,129	2,138	1,788	23,738	....	32,410	56,148	11 1 8	15 2 7	26 4 3
AIDED.												
Sylhet	Habiganj	1	230	227	174	....	1,048	2,855	3,903	4 9 10	12 9 3	17 3 1
"	Sunámganj	1	147	143	122	....	943	1,679	2,622	6 9 6	11 11 10	18 5 4
Kámrúp	Barpeta	1	131	134	117	....	1,788	2,013	3,751	12 15 6	15 0 4	27 15 10
Khási and Jaintia Hills.	Shillong Mission	1	85	84	26	....	....	1,750	1,750	.....	51 7 6	51 7 6
Total of Aided Schools		4	543	538	439	....	3,729	8,297	12,026	6 14 10†	15 6 9	22 5 7
Ditto ditto for 1886-87		3	382	383	314	....	2,864	7,033	9,897	8 1 5†	18 5 10	25 13 6
UNAIDED.												
Sylhet	National Institution	1	270	270	216	....	....	2,708	2,708	.....	10 0	10 0 6
"	Murarichand	1	199	201	150	....	....	3,289	3,289	.....	16 5 10	16 5 10
Total of Unaided Schools		2	478	471	366	....	....	5,997	5,997	.....	12 11 9	12 11 9
Ditto ditto for 1886-87		3	526	545	428	....	....	8,788	8,788	.....	16 1 11	16 1 11
Grand Total of Departmental, Aided, and Unaided High Schools.		17	3,223	3,209	2,601	27,514*	3,729	46,631	77,874	9 11 9	14 8 5	24 4 2
Ditto ditto for 1886-87		16	3,037	3,066	2,525	23,738	2,864	48,231	74,833	8 10 10	15 11 8	24 6 6

* Includes Rs. 2,603 spent by Public Works Department on ordinary repairs and renewals to High School buildings.
† In calculating the cost to Government the average number on the rolls of the Shillong Mission School has been excluded.
‡ Includes Rs. 498 spent by Public Works Department on repairs and renewals to Jorhát School building from the Williamson Fund.

The departmental high schools increased by one, due to the Shillong departmental middle English school being raised to the status of an Entrance school. The number of pupils on the rolls, the average number on the rolls monthly, and the average daily attendance increased by 123, 62, and 8 respectively; but the percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly fell from 83·6 to 81·6 per cent. The total expenditure on departmental high schools increased by Rs. 3,703, made up as follows:—A net increase to the State of Rs. 3,776, and a falling off in receipts of Rs. 73. In the corresponding table in last year's report the cost of repairs executed by the Public Works Department was borne by Local Funds; but since April 1887 the expenditure on this head has been debited to Provincial, and came to Rs. 2,603, against Rs. 2,648 in the preceding year. The net increase to the State arose from four causes:—(1) the expenditure on the Shillong School; (2) the annual increments to head-masters' pay; (3) the municipal tax of the Sylhet High School building, *viz*, Rs. 286, which, for the first time, were paid by the department; and (4) the falling off in the receipts from fees, &c. If the receipts from the Shillong School, which came to Rs. 795, be excluded, the falling off in receipts from the remaining ten schools came to Rs. 868, and was due to outstanding fees on account of boys whose names were struck off the rolls for non-payment of fees. Head-masters have been addressed on this subject, with instructions to try and collect the outstandings.

The aided high schools were four, against three in the preceding year, showing an increase of one school and 161 pupils, with a corresponding increase in the average number on the rolls monthly, and in the average daily attendance. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was 81, against 82 per cent. The net expenditure from Local Funds shows an increase of Rs. 865, due to the Sunámganj High School, which received aid from the Sunámganj Local Board as a high school during the

year. The receipts for aided high schools increased by Rs. 1,264, due to the Sunámganj School and the Mission School, Shillong, while Barpeta shows a falling off of Rs. 581.

The unaided high schools show a loss of one school and 48 pupils, caused by the collapse of the Habiganj Institution; the closing of this school is no real loss to higher education, as it was purely a competition school, started in opposition to the Habiganj Aided High School, and, for the time it was in existence, drew most of its pupils from the latter school.

To sum up, there was an increase of one high school, 236 on the rolls on the 31st March, 143 on the average number on the rolls monthly, and 76 in the daily average attendance, which was 81·1 per cent. of the average monthly roll number, against 82·4 per cent. for the preceding year. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 3,041, made up as follows: an increase to the State of Rs. 4,641, with a falling off of Rs. 1,600 in receipts. Of the total expenditure on high schools, 59·8 per cent. was borne by the public, against 64 per cent. in the preceding year.

Classification of pupils in high schools according to religion.

23. Classified according to religion, the pupils in High schools stood as follows for the last five years:—

Year.	Number on rolls on 31st March.	Hindus.	Percentage.	Musalmans.	Percentage.	Others.	Percentage.
1883-84	2,843	2,366	83·22	410	14·42	67	2·36
1884-85	2,832	2,356	83·18	405	14·15	71	2·67
1885-86	3,012	2,527	83·89	419	13·8	66	2·31
1886-87	3,037	2,549	83·93	410	13·5	78	2·57
1887-88	3,273	2,720	83·10	433	13·23	120	3·67

Stage of instruction of pupils in high schools

24. Full details of the stage of instruction of the pupils in high schools are given in General Table V., so only an abstract is given here as follows:—Of the 3,273 pupils in high schools, 767, or 23·4 per cent., were in the high stage, 791, or 24·2 per cent., in the middle stage, 685, or 20·9, in the upper primary stage, and 1,030, or 31·5 per cent., in the lower primary stage. These percentages are almost identical with those in paragraph 32 of last year's report, and do not need any comments.

Result of the Entrance Examination for the last five years

25. In this year's report the table on this head corresponding to that in paragraph 33 of last year's report has been added as an Appendix, marked (A), and I need only mention that in 1883 46 candidates passed out of 90 sent up; in 1884 there was no Entrance Examination held; in 1885, 40 passed out of 109; in 1886 39 passed out of 99; in 1887, 94 passed out of 137; and in 1888, 87 passed out of 168. Besides these, 3 teachers appeared at the Entrance Examination from Assam, and 2 passed.

Comparison of the Entrance Examination for the last two years.

26. The following table compares the success of Government, aided, and unaided schools at the Entrance Examination for the last two years; private students and teachers are excluded:—

Name of school	1887. Roll number on 31st March.	1887. Number of candidates.	1887. Number passed in First division.	1887. Number passed in Second division.	1887. Number passed in Third division.	1887. Total.	1887. Number of scholarships.	1888. Roll number on 31st March.	1888. Number of candidates.	1888. Number passed in First division.	1888. Number passed in Second division.	1888. Number passed in Third division.	1888. Total.	1888. Number of scholarships.	Merit mark. 1887.	Merit mark. 1888.
Sylhet Government	355	30	5	19	2	26	6	364	29	10	10	4	24	9	55	54
Gauhati ditto	321	12	2	6	1	9	8	341	14	4	1	4	9	6	19	18
Dhubri ditto	126	5	3	2	..	5	4	137	13	2	4	4	10	5	13	16
Habiganj aided	213	6	1	1	2	4	1	230	19	1	4	3	8	1	7	14
Tezpur Government	156	6	..	3	2	5	4	185	6	3	2	..	5	4	9	12
Murarichand Private	180	13	1	6	1	8	..	199	19	..	3	3	6	..	16	9
Silchar Government	178	7	..	..	4	4	1	166	5	..	2	3	5	..	4	7
National Institution, Sylhet	286	14	3	1	5	9	2	279	21	..	2	3	5	..	14	7
Nowgong Government	190	2	.	..	2	2	2	184	4	1	..	3	4	3	2	6
Jorhat ditto	236	7	3	2	..	5	5	251	3	..	1	1	2	1	13	3
Sunámganj Jubilee Aided	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	147	7	..	..	3	3	..	..	3
Barpeta Aided.	138	5	1	2	1	4	4	131	6	..	1	1	2	1	8	3
Sibsagar Government	266	11	1	1	..	2	1	260	9	..	1	..	1	1	5	2
Shillong ditto	....	.	..	..	..	..	..	65	4	..	1	..	1			2
Dibrugarh ditto	271	6	3	..	..	3	2	238	4	..	..	1	1	1	9	1
Shillong Mission.....	34	6	1	1	3	5	3	33	5	..	..	1	1	1	5	1
Habiganj Institution, Private	60	5	1	2	.	3	..	Closed during the year.					..	..	..	7	
Total	2,997	137	84		24	94	43	3,232	168	21	32	34	87	33	188	161

The Government schools at Sylhet and Gauháti, as in the preceding year, occupy first and second place on the list; Dhubri has risen from fifth to second on the list, being bracketted with Gauháti; the Murarichand School has fallen from third to fifth; and the National Institution, Sylhet, fallen from fourth to the seventh place on the list. Dibrugarh also has fallen very low on the list, having only passed one candidate, and that in the third division.

In 1887, out of 137 candidates, 94, or 68·7 per cent., passed; for Bengal the figure was 68·8 per cent. During the current year 87 candidates passed out of 168, or 51·7 per cent. The Government schools did best, passing 68·1 per cent. of their candidates; the aided schools stand next in order of merit, with 37·8 per cent., and the unaided schools passed only 27·5 per cent. Another interesting point is the percentage of candidates sent up and passed on the average strength of each class of schools monthly. In Government schools, excluding the Kohima school, from which no candidates were sent up, we find that 4·2 per cent. of the average number of pupils on the rolls monthly were sent up to the Entrance Examination, and 2·86 per cent. passed; in aided schools 6·87 per cent. were sent up, and 2·4 passed; and in unaided schools 8·49 per cent. were sent up and 2·33 passed. The close coincidence of the percentages passed, and the difference in the percentages sent up seems to indicate that the masters of aided and unaided schools did not take the same care in selecting the candidates sent up as the masters of Government schools, and that the candidates sent up from Government schools were better prepared than those from either aided or unaided schools. This is further borne out by referring to the divisions in which the candidates passed, where we find that out of 21 candidates who passed in the first division, 20 were from Government schools, and one from an aided school. Of the 87 candidates who passed 50 took up Sanskrit, 31 Bengali, 4 Persian, and 2 Latin.

Junior scholarships.

27. The following shows the award of junior scholarships for the examination held in March 1888:—

No.	Name of scholar.	Age.	School from which the scholarship is obtained.	College where scholarship is made tenable.
	Scholarships, Rs. 25 per mensem.			
1	Jnanendra Mohan Sen	17	Dhubri High	Dacca College.
2	Bishnu Charan De	17-2	Sylhet „	Ditto.
	Brahmaputra Valley Scholarships, Rs. 20 per mensem.			
1	Lakshmipati Sarma	15-5	Gauháti High	Metropolitan Institution.
2	Hem Chandra Gosvami	17-11	Nowgong „	Ditto.
3	Sashi Mohan Datta	16	Dhubri „	Ditto.
4	Jay Krishna Das	19-9	Gauháti „	General Assembly's Institution.
5	Dwarkesvar Sarma	14-11	Sibságar „	Metropolitan Institution.
6	Ram Narayan Das	18	Dhubri „	Ditto.
7	Beni Mohan Datta	18	„ „	Patna College.
8	Kanak Lal Barua	14	Gauháti „	General Assembly's Institution.
9	Muhammad Habibulla	19	Dibrugarh „	Presidency College.
10	Tirtha Nath Kataki	19-4	Jorhát „	Metropolitan Institution.
11	Kalpa Nath Chaudhuri	15-3	Gauháti „	Presidency College.
12	Bijoy Ram Barua	15-9	Nowgong „	Sibpur Engineering College.
13	Mani Ram Datta Chaudhuri	15-2	Barpeta „	Free Church Institution.
14	Prasanna Kumar Phukan	15-5	Nowgong „	St. Xavier's College.
	Hill District Scholarships, Rs. 20 per mensem.			
1	U Rai Mohan	16-1	Shillong Mission High	Free Church Institution.
	Surma Valley Scholarships, Rs 15 per mensem.			
1	Lal Bihari Ray Chaudhuri	14	Sylhet High	City College.
2	Giris Chandra Chaudhuri	18	Ditto „	Metropolitan Institution.
3	Haris Chandra Das	19-4	Ditto „	Jagannath College, Dacca.
4	Kedar Nath Deb	17	Habiganj High	Dacca College.
5	Ram Kumar Aditya	17-9	Sylhet High	Metropolitan Institution.
6	Pyari Charan Nandi	17-8	Ditto „	Hooghly College.
7	Brajendra Lall Das Chaudhuri	17	Ditto „	Presidency „
8	Abdul Waheb	19-2	Ditto „	Dacca „
9	Muhammad Mahbub-ur-Rabb	16-3	Ditto „	Hooghly „
	SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO OTHERS THAN NATIVES OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY OR HILL DISTRICTS READING IN SCHOOLS IN THOSE PARTS OF THE PROVINCE.			
	Rs. 20 per mensem.			
1	Satis Chandra Chakravarti	13	Gauháti High	Dacca College.
2	Ramani Kanta Das	17-5	Dhubri „	Metropolitan Institution.
3	Chandra Kanta Das	17-5	Tezpur „	Ditto.
4	Upendra Nath Sen	14	Gauháti „	Presidency College.
5	Nilambar Ghosh	19-7	Tezpur „	Jagannath „ Dacca.
6	Kamakhya Charan Sen	16-4	Ditto „	Dacca College.
	Rs. 15 per mensem.			
7	Nalini Kanta Basu	14-3	Tezpur High	Ditto.

The sanctioned number of junior scholarships for the year was 35. Of these 33 were awarded, the two unallotted scholarships were the balance of the three reserved for natives of the hill districts. The names in the several classes are arranged in order of merit.

28. I thought it would be interesting to find out what becomes of the boys who reach the first classes of our high schools, and for this purpose directed head-masters, when submitting their annual reports, to state as far as they knew what had become of the boys who were in the first classes of their schools for the last five years, some have taken the five years ending on 31st March 1887, others the year ending 31st March 1888, so that the information received from the several schools does not comprise quite the same periods; again, some masters have omitted to include boys who remained on at school, so that the information contained in the subjoined statement is by no means exhaustive, but still it gives a very fair idea of how these boys are employed:—

School.	Number of pupils in first class for last five years.	Number of pupils who are: In trade or land-owners.	In employment or apprentices.	Still carrying on their studies either at school or college.	Unemployed, or about whom nothing is known.	Dead.
Silchar	23	...	6	14	3	...
Sylhet ...	104	2	10	87	4	1
Dhubri ...	39	...	10	18	8	3
Gauháti ...	...	...	30	...	...	...
Tezpur ...	35	...	8	24	3	...
Nowgong ...	45	...	19	16	10	...
Sibságar ...	26	2	14	3	6	1
Jorhát ...	22	...	5	13	4	...
Dibrugarh ...	31	...	11	12	8	...
National Institution	64	...	5	37	22	...
Shillong Mission	17	...	8	4	5	...
Total ...	406	4	126	228	73	5

Excluding the 30 boys from Gauháti, who have received appointments varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 90 per month, we find that 100 boys, or just 25 per cent. of those who were in the first classes of high schools have either secured appointments, or are engaged in the management of their own property or affairs, and 228, or 56 per cent., are still carrying on their studies either at school or college. Of the balance, 5 are dead, and concerning the remaining 73 nothing certain is known.

School accommodation and furniture.

29. The departmental high schools, with the exception of Tezpur, are fairly well housed, and are supplied with such furniture and apparatus as just meets their requirements. In some few cases renewals of furniture will be required during the coming year. The two high school buildings at Tezpur were burned down by an incendiary on the 12th February, and since then the school has been located in the Town Hall. Plans for a new school-house at Tezpur have been approved, and the work will be begun next cold weather. The Sunámganj aided school-house was burned down by an incendiary in March, and the managers have been put to much trouble in arranging for a temporary place to hold the school in. They are now arranging to build a good school-house.

Gymnastics.

30. I have nothing further on this subject to add to the remarks made in paragraph 38 of last year's report, except that certain proposals have been submitted to Government, which are still pending.

Boarding-houses.

31. The following table shows the particulars of the boarding-houses attached to departmental high schools:—

School.	Number of boarders the institution can accommodate.	Number of boarders.	Sanctioned yearly expenditure for establishment	Expenditure.		
				Establishment.	Construction and repairs.	Total.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Silchar	12	8	192	192	.....	192
Sylhet	Remained closed.		168	55	.....	55
Dhubri	20	11	168	168	.....	168
Gauháti	30	26	228	235	.....	235
Tezpur	24	7	144	144	.....	144
Nowgong.....	40	31	132	204	196	400
Jorhát	14	10	141	144	102	246
Sibságar	...	15	84	16	.....	16
Dibrugarh	24	10	204	198	195	393
Total.....		118	1,464	1,356	493	1,849
Corresponding total for preceding year.		150	1,416	1,397	780	2,177

The above shows a falling off of 32 in the number of boarders; but this is partly nominal. The number in Dibrugarh on the 31st March was 10; but for the year the average number living in this institution was 15: the examinations were held early in March, and many of the boys left for their homes immediately after the examinations were finished, and thus at the close of the year the number attending was small. The Tezpur boarding-houses were out of repair, which accounts for the falling off in that station. Plans and estimates amounting to about Rs. 1,200 have been passed for reconstructing the Tezpur boarding-houses, and the work is nearly now completed. As reported last year, the Sylhet boarding-houses, under the orders of the Civil Surgeon, were closed; during the year several sites were under consideration for re-building on; but in every case some unsurmountable difficulty cropped up, so that finally the idea of re-building the Sylhet boarding-houses had to be given up. At Sibságar the boarding-houses were completely destroyed by floods. In lieu of these some of the boys clubbed together, and built a house, and others joined and bought a house; there are thus two private boarding-houses, in which 15 boys find accommodation. Towards the end of the year rules for working these boarding-houses were framed, and a capitation allowance of 4 annas per head was sanctioned. Each house is to have a monitor, who will look after the inmates, and submit monthly reports to the headmaster of the high school. When necessary, a small grant is also to be given for repairs. I am greatly in favour of this alternate plan, and would like, when practicable, to see it substituted for the present system of Government boarding-houses.

Details of high schools.

32. The following are brief sketches of the working of high schools for the year under report.

Sylhet.

The Sylhet Government High School is the best school of its kind in the Province, and again heads the list at the Entrance Examination, with a merit mark of 54. 29 candidates were sent up to the Entrance Examination, of whom 24 passed, and were placed, ten in the first and second divisions respectively, and four in the third division. Seven of the eight competitive junior scholarships for the Surma Valley were gained by boys from this school, as also the two special junior scholarships reserved for Muhammadans. The roll number on the 31st March increased by 9, but the average number on the rolls monthly and the daily average attendance fell by 22 and 18 respectively. No doubt the opening of the Sunámganj High School was the cause of this. The percentage of attendance was, as in the two preceding years, 83 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly. Of the 364 boys on the rolls, 279 were Hindus, 81 Muhammadans, and the remaining 4 come under the head of "Others." This shows an increase of 5 Hindus and 6 Muhammadans, with a falling off of 2 under "Others." 80 of the 81 Muhammadans take up Persian as their second language. 31 of the Musalman boys received assistance from the Mohsin Fund, eight getting stipends of Rs. 3 per month, and the remaining 23 two-thirds of their schooling-fees.

Gauháti

The close of the year shows an increase of 20 on the rolls, 22 on the average number on the rolls monthly, and 16 in the daily attendance. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was 82, against 82·7 per cent. Of the 341 boys on the rolls, 49

were Muhammadans and have taken up Persian as their second language, against 16 in the preceding year. 14 boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, 9 passed and were placed 4 in the first, 1 in the second, and 4 in the third division. This school stands second, bracketted with Dhubri, according to merit mark, on the Assam list at the Entrance Examination. For the last five years it has made steady progress, and I consider it the second best school in the Province.

Dhubri.

The Dhubri High School, according to merit mark at the Entrance Examination, has risen from the fifth to the second on the list of Assam high schools, being bracketted with Gauháti. Out of 13 candidates it passed 10, and one of the boys, Jnanendra Mohan Sen, son of the Sub-Inspector of Schools, Barpeta, headed the list of successful candidates from the Province. The number of boys on the rolls on the 31st March increased by 11, the average number on the rolls monthly fell off by 7, while the daily average attendance remained stationary at 108. The decrease in the average monthly roll number while the daily attendance remained the same has raised the percentage of daily attendance on the monthly average roll number from 82 to 87 per cent. It is worthy of remark that out of the 137 pupils attending this school, only 35, or 25 per cent., are natives of the Goálpára district, and only 8 are Muhammadans.

Habiganj aided.

The number of boys on the rolls, the average number on the rolls monthly, and the daily attendance have increased by 18, 22, and 13 respectively; but the percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly has fallen from 78 to 76 per cent., which is a very low attendance for a high school. The head-master accounts for this unsatisfactory attendance by the outbreak of cholera and chicken-pox. This school did fairly well at the Entrance Examination, passing 8 out of the 19 candidates. It has advanced from eleventh to third on the list according to merit mark. The boy who passed in the first division gained one of the eight competition junior scholarships for the Surma Valley.

Tezpur.

The number of boys on the rolls on the 31st March, the average number on the rolls monthly, and the daily average attendance rose from 156, 155, and 128, to 185, 173, and 129 respectively; but the percentage of daily attendance on the average roll number monthly fell from 82 to 74·5 per cent. This percentage attendance is very bad for a school of this class, and is attributed by the head-master to the prevalence of sickness during the year. Of the 185 pupils, 154 were Assamese, and there were 7 Muhammadans, against 4 in the preceding year. The school did well at the Entrance Examination, passing 5 boys out of 6 sent up, and these were placed 3 in the first and 2 in the second division. Both the school buildings, with the library and most of the furniture, were burned down on Sunday, the 12th February 1888. There is little doubt but that this was the work of an incendiary. Plans and estimates for a new school-house have been sanctioned, and the work will be taken in hand during the next cold weather. In the meantime, the school is being held in the Town Hall, for which the department pays a rent of Rs. 35 per mensem. Notwithstanding dues to the amount of Rs. 120 on account of fees, still the receipts have increased by Rs. 235.

Murarichand Private School, Sylhet.

The head-master of this school has not submitted any report, so I can give little details of its working. From the statistics it appears that there has been an increase of 19 on the rolls on the 31st March, 24 in the average number on the rolls monthly, and 7 in the daily attendance; the percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly fell from 80 to 74·6 per cent., which compares unfavourably with that of the Government school, where it was 83 per cent. for the last three years. The school sent up 19 candidates for the Entrance Examination, but only passed 6, and none of these were placed in the first division.

Silchar.

The close of the year shows a loss of 22 boys, and 18 in daily average attendance; but the average number on the rolls monthly only fell by 6, so that the average strength of the school was much the same as in the preceding year. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly, however, fell from 83·6 to 78·6 per cent. The head-master offers no explanation regarding this decrease; but my opinion is that it was due to laxity on the part of the masters. Of the 156 pupils on the rolls, 26 were Muhammadans, showing a falling off of 7, only 13 of these read Persian.

For the Entrance Examination 5 candidates were sent up, all passed, and were placed, 2 in the second and 3 in third divisions. The school has thus done fairly well at this examination, and has risen from last but one to sixth place on the list of high schools according to merit mark.

The roll number has fallen from 286 to 279, the average number on the rolls monthly from 311 to 270, and the daily attendance from 254 to 216. This shows a large falling off in the average strength of the school and daily attendance. In page 22 of last year's report I remarked unfavourably on the percentage of daily attendance; it turned out that the figure for the daily attendance, *viz.*, 212, submitted by the head-master was wrong, and should have been 254. The information came too late for the necessary correction in this paragraph; but the correction was made in the table in page 18. For the year under report, the daily attendance was 80 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly, against 81 per cent. for the preceding year. Twenty-one boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, but only five passed, and these were placed, two in the second and three in the third division, a poor result.

The National Institution, Sylhet, Private.

This school shows a fall of six on the rolls, eleven in the average monthly strength, and thirteen in the average daily attendance. The head-master reports that the decrease chiefly occurred in the higher classes, and was due to the strictness he observed in making promotions after the annual examination. He further states that at the time he felt quite sure that the steps he was taking would result in a loss of pupils and receipts; but that he felt it would result in the ultimate improvement of the school. Fees show a loss of Rs. 423, caused by a loss of eleven boys in the average monthly strength of the school, and also to the fact that there were not so many boys in the higher classes as in the preceding year. Four boys were sent up to their Entrance Examinations, all passed, and were placed, one in the first and three in the third division.

Nowgong

The Persian class was opened in July, and is attended by the 27 Muhammadan boys who are at school and three others, Hindus, I suppose. The head-master reports that the Maulvi is an efficient and successful teacher, and has his entire confidence.

The Jorhát High School has more than recovered the falling off there was in the strength of the school in the year 1886-87, and had on the 31st March 281 boys on the rolls, with an average monthly roll number of 258 and a daily attendance of 215, against 236, 230, and 195 respectively for the preceding year. These are the highest numbers ever reached. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was 83·3, against 84·7. Of the 281 pupils, 269 were natives of Assam, and 37 were Muhammadans. 29 Musalman boys have taken up Persian as their second language, the remaining 8 will do so later on. Considering the number of pupils attending this school, the result of the Entrance Examination cannot be considered good. Only three boys were sent up, and two passed; but it must be remembered that the great bulk of the pupils are in the lower classes, there being 147 in the two last classes, and only 21 in the first and second classes together. According to numerical strength, this school ranks third in the Province, it is also one of the cheapest Government high schools in the Brahmaputra Valley, and the total cost of educating each pupil, and especially that to Government, is very much less than that in any other Government high school.

Jorhát

This school was raised from a middle English to an Entrance school in July 1887, and receives a grant of Rs. 100 from the Sunámganj Local Board. There were 147 pupils on the rolls on the 31st March, with a daily average attendance of 122. The higher classes were recruited from the other high schools in the district. Seven candidates were sent in for the Entrance Examination, three passed and were placed in the third division. The managers suffered a great loss in the destruction of the school, together with most of its furniture, &c., in March by fire Steps are being taken to raise funds for a *pucca* building.

Sunámganj Jubilee Aided

Barpeta Aided High School did not do at all well at the Entrance Examination, having only passed two out of six candidates, and one of these was an importation from the Dibrugarh High School. The roll number, the average number on the rolls monthly, and the daily attendance have also fallen off, being 131,134, and 117, against 136, 149, and 129 respectively for the preceding year. Receipts also show a loss of Rs. 581.

Barpeta Aided

The number of boys on the rolls on the 31st March increased by 4, but the average number on the rolls monthly and the average daily attendance fell off by 20 and 16 respectively. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly shows a slight improvement, being 86, against 85 per cent. for the two previous years. The receipts fell by Rs. 339, which is nearly accounted for by the average loss of 20 pupils per month; but I find there are outstanding fees to the amount of Rs. 220 on account of boys whose names have been struck off for non-payment of fees. Some of this will be recovered. I am not satisfied with such large arrears, especially as when in a large school like Sylhet the outstandings are only Rs. 32. At the Entrance Examination this school did very badly, having only passed one boy out of nine sent up.

Sibságar

Shillong.

This school was raised to an Entrance class school on the 1st April 1887 under the net grant system, with a grant of Rs. 1,400 per annum. On the 31st March there were 65 pupils on the rolls, with an average monthly roll number of 61 and a daily average attendance of 44, or 72 per cent. of the average number monthly. I consider this a very poor attendance for a high school, and especially poor for this school, where all the pupils live quite close, and should have no difficulty in attending regularly. The school is comparatively one of the most expensive in the Province; but as it supplies an undoubted want has to be kept up. Four candidates were sent up to the Entrance Examination, one passed and was placed in the second division. This boy came from the Shillong Mission School within the year.

Dibrugarh

The number on the rolls of this school on the 31st March shows a loss of 33 boys; but the average strength of the school monthly and the daily attendance only fell off by five and nine respectively. The head-master reports that the falling off commenced in October, but is quite unable to account for it. The receipts also fell from Rs. 4,093 to Rs. 3,658, or by Rs. 435, the head-master gives in explanation the decrease of boys in the higher classes, where the rates of fees are high. This, though partly true, does not account for the decrease, which, I think, may be found in the amount of outstanding fees, which came to Rs. 388. Head-masters usually say that they have no means of realising fees on account of boys whose names are struck off for non-payment. To this I do not at all subscribe, as the inter-school rules lay down that, when possible, a parent or guardian should accompany a boy when he is admitted to the school. These persons are, therefore, responsible for the boy's fees, and I believe it is through a want of due care in admitting boys that large arrears occur. This school did badly at the Entrance Examination, having only passed one boy, and that in the third division, out of four sent up. The head-master mentions that two boys of the first class, who had a very good chance of passing the Entrance Examination, left the school in December, and accepted appointments of about Rs. 20 per month, as they thought they had no chance of securing one of the 14 junior scholarships reserved for natives of the Brahmaputra Valley.

Shillong Mission School.

This school is on quite a different system from any other school of the kind in the Province: it consists of three classes only, pupils not being admitted until they reach the middle English standard. In this respect it differs from other high schools, where pupils are received from the alphabet stage. The cost, therefore, of educating each pupil cannot be compared with that in other schools. The strength of the school was practically the same as in the preceding year. Five boys were sent up to the Entrance Examination, only one passed, and was placed in the third division. Being a Khásia, he obtains one of the three junior scholarships reserved for the hills.

Kohima.

This school is still in its infancy, and it will be some years before it works up to the Entrance standard. The strength of the school shows some slight improvement. Of the 41 boys on the rolls on the 31st March 10 were Nágas.

Review of boys' middle English schools, Government and aided, for the last five years.

33. The following statement shows the changes in boys' middle English schools, Government and aided, for the last five years:—

	Number of schools.	Roll number on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure.				Cost of educating each pupil.		
					Provincial.	Local Funds.	Fees and other sources.	Total.	To the State.	To the public.	Total.
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Departmental Schools—											
1883-84	3	195	197	163	2,299	32*	1,877	4,108	11 5 0	9 8 5	20 13 5
1884-85	3	259	218	177	2,152	32*	1,607	3,791	11 0 4	7 5 11	17 6 3
1885-86	3	274	251	204	2,129	120*	1,587	3,836	8 15 5	6 5 2	15 4 7
1886-87	3	242	230	191	2,348	120*	1,830	4,298	10 11 8	7 15 4	18 11 0
1887-88	3	237	225	180	1,786	224	1,953	3,963	8 14 11	8 10 11	17 9 10
Aided schools—											
1883-84	26	2,360	1,999	1,563	.....	10,691	14,540	25,231	5 5 6	7 4 3	12 9 4
1884-85	24	2,249	1,972	1,514	.....	10,872	15,809	26,684	5 8 3	8 0 0	13 8 0
1885-86	29	2,530	2,297	1,754	.....	12,562	18,177	30,679	5 7 1	7 14 7	13 5 8
1886-87	29	2,559	2,326	1,748	464	12,511	17,953	30,928	5 9 3	7 11 6	13 4 1
1887-88	31	2,680	2,480	1,930	360	11,815	18,786	30,961	4 14 7	7 9 2	12 7 9

* Municipal grants.

The unaided schools have been excluded from the above statement, as they are all, with the exceptions of those in the Khási and Jaintía Hills, chiefly expectant schools. In paragraph 44 of last year's report I pointed out the anomaly in classifying the mission schools in the Khási and Jaintia Hills as unaided; but following the practice in former reports they have been so classified again this year.

The departmental schools were three, as in the preceding year; but there has been a loss of pupils and a falling off in the daily attendance. The expenditure, on the whole, shows a decrease of Rs. 335, and the receipts show an increase of Rs. 123. This latter is due to a different classification, as Rs. 300, the municipal grant to the Goálpára School, has been, in conformity with the Grant-in-aid Rules, shown under the head "Fees and other sources," while in the four preceding years such sums were entered along with expenditure from Local Funds. Rs. 224 in this year's return from Local Funds was for the time the Goálpára School was under the Local Board. The aided schools increased by two, and there has been a corresponding increase in the number of pupils and daily attendance.

Statistics of boys' middle English schools.

34. The following table gives the principal particulars of boys' middle English schools for the year under report, together with an abstract for the preceding year:—

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils. On rolls on 31st March.	Number of pupils. Average number on rolls monthly during the year.	Number of pupils. Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure. From Government. Provincial.	Direct expenditure. From Government. Local Funds.	Direct expenditure. From fees, fines, and other sources.	Direct expenditure. Total.	Cost of educating each pupil. To Government.	Cost of educating each pupil. To the public.	Cost of educating each pupil. Total.
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Departmental—											
Cachar	1	74	76	61	685	...	382	1,067	9 0 3	5 0 5	14 0 8
Shillong	Converted into a High School.				164	...	...	164	.....	.....	.....
Goálpára	1	60	55	44	523	224	†598	1,345	13 9 4	10 14 0	24 7 4
Sibságar	1	103	94	75	414	...	973	1,387	4 6 6	10 5 7	14 12 1
Total of Departmental Schools	3	237	225	180	1,786	224	1,953	3,963	8 14 11	8 10 11	17 9 10
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	3	242	230	191	2,348	*120	1,830	4,298	10 11 8	7 15 4	18 11 0
Aided—											
Cachar	1	204	167	121	...	480	1,000	1,480	2 14 0	5 15 10	8 13 10
Sylhet	17	1,603	1,470	1,169	...	6,228	10,788	17,016	4 3 9	7 5 5	11 9 2
Goálpára	3	206	141	126	...	1,092	2,082	3,174	7 11 11	14 12 3	22 8 2
Kámrúp	3	196	190	145	...	1,230	1,253	2,483	6 7 7	6 9 6	13 1 1
Darrang	2	147	156	113	...	788	757	1,545	5 0 10	4 13 8	9 14 6
Nowgong	1	53	67	55	...	460	460	920	6 13 10	6 13 10	13 11 8
Sibságar	1	108	132	87	...	720	1,104	1,824	5 7 3	8 5 10	13 13 1
Lakhimpur	2	107	78	58	...	817	821	1,638	10 7 7	10 8 5	21 0 5
Manipur	1	56	79	56	360	...	521	881	4 8 11	6 9 6	11 2 0
Total of Aided Schools	31	2,680	2,480	1,930	360	11,815	18,786	30,961	4 14 7	7 9 2	12 7 9
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	29	2,559	2,326	1,748	464	12,511	17,953	30,928	5 9 3	7 11 6	13 4 9
Unaided—											
Sylhet	3	161	139	112	...	...	900	900	.....	6 7 7	6 7 7
Khási Hills	5	671	665	437	...	...	‡8,184	8,184	.....	12 4 11	12 4 11
Darrang	1	30	28	25	...	...	25	25	.....	0 14 3	0 14 3
Sibságar	2	107	102	68	...	...	966	966	.....	9 7 6	9 7 6
Total of Unaided schools	11	969	934	642	...	...	10,075	10,075	.....	10 12 7	10 12 7
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	13	1,230	1,116	828	...	*300	9,148	9,448	0 4 4	8 3 1	8 7 5
Grand Total of Departmental, Aided, and Unaided schools.	45	3,886	3,639	2,752	2,146	12,039	30,814	44,999	3 14 4	8 7 6	12 5 10
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	45	4,031	3,672	2,767	2,812	12,931	28,931	44,674	4 4 7	7 14 1	12 2 8

* Municipal grant. † Goálpára Municipal grant Rs. 300 included. ‡ Shillong Municipal grant Rs. 250 included.

The changes in departmental schools were as follows:—The Shillong School was raised to a high school, and the expenditure on it, amounting to Rs. 164, was on account of arrears while it was a middle school; the Goálpára School was taken over by the department in June, and the expenditure of Rs. 224 from Local was on account of the grant from Local Funds from April to June. The schools were thus three, as in the preceding year. For the loss of 7 pupils and 11 in the daily attendance Golághát and Hailákándi schools are responsible. The daily attendance was 80 per cent. of the average roll number monthly. The total cost of educating each pupil decreased by Re. 1-1-2, which was entirely due to the Goálpára School being a less expensive school than that in Shillong, which it replaced, for we find that in the other two schools the cost rose on account of the falling off of the average number on the rolls monthly. In drawing a comparison between the departmental and aided schools, it should be remembered that these three schools are maintained in places where aided schools have proved an utter failure from want of local support, and these schools are thus proportionately much more expensive than aided schools, situated in favourable localities, where substantial subscriptions are forthcoming. Under "Aided schools" the changes may be briefly summarised as follows: The Sunámganj School, Sylhet, was raised to a high school, and two unaided schools received grants; in Kamrúp, the Nalbari Upper Primary School was changed into a middle aided school; and, in Goálpára the Manikarchar Vernacular School was changed to an English school, while the so-called Goalpara Aided School was taken over by the department. There was thus a gain of two schools, 121 pupils, and 182 in the daily attendance, it being 77 per cent. of the average strength, against 75 per cent. in the preceding year. The total cost increased by Rs. 33, distributed as follows:—Under fees and other sources a gain of Rs. 833, and under Provincial and Local Funds a saving of Rs. 800.

The unaided schools were 11, against 13. The loss of two schools is thus accounted for: in Sylhet two of the unaided schools mentioned in last year's report received aid, and have been transferred to the list of aided schools; in the Khási Hills the Maufflong Primary School has been raised to a middle English; in Darrang a school has been started at Bisvanath with the avowed intention of asking for aid; and in Sibságar two of the four schools given in last report have been transferred to the class "Private." This is not a loss to education. The schools are still at work, and appear under the head "Private," instead of "Public." In unaided schools the daily attendance was 68 per cent. of the average strength, against 74 in the preceding year. The low percentage is specially remarkable in the Khási Hills, where it was only 60 per cent.

For all middle English schools taken together, there was a falling off of 145 on the rolls, 33 in average strength, and 15 in the daily attendance, which was 75 per cent of the average strength, the same as in the preceding year. The total cost increased by Rs. 325, and receipts by Rs. 1,883, while the expenditure to the State decreased by Rs. 1,558. In departmental schools the public defrayed 49 per cent. of the total expenditure, in aided schools 61 per cent., and for all schools combined 68 per cent., against 42 per cent., 58 per cent., and 64 per cent., in the preceding year.

Classification of pupils in boys' middle English schools according to religion.

35. The boys in middle English schools, classified according to religion, stood as follows for the last five years:—

Year.	Number on rolls on 31st March.	Hindus.	Percentage.	Muhammadans.	Percentage.	Others.	Percentage.
1883-84	3,471	2,449	70·56	513	14·77	509	14·67
1884-85	3,548	2,495	70·32	575	16·21	478	13·47
1885-86	3,659	2,549	69·66	548	14·98	562	15·36
1886-87	4,031	2,727	67·65	679	16·84	625	15·51
1887-88	3,886	2,582	66·44	674	17·35	630	16·21

Stage of instruction.

36. Of the 3,886 pupils, 6 in aided schools, having passed the middle examination, have been placed in the high stage. These boys remained on in the hopes of obtaining a scholarship. 457, or nearly 12 per cent., were in the middle stage, distributed to departmental schools 19 per cent.; to aided schools 12 per cent; and to unaided schools 8 per cent. 1,021, or 26 per cent, were in the upper primary stage, distributed to departmental schools 27 per cent., to aided schools 25 per cent., and to unaided schools 29 per cent, The remaining 2,402 pupils, or 62 per cent., were in the lower primary stage, distributed to departmental schools 54 per cent and to aided and unaided 63 per cent. each. In these schools, 2,023 pupils, or 52 per cent. read English.

Middle English Scholarship and pass certificate for boys' schools.

37. Middle English schools sent up candidates for both the English and Vernacular examinations. The former differs from the latter by having English added on to the full Vernacular course. Boys who fail to obtain middle English scholarships or pass certificates through not having obtained qualifying marks in English alone, are eligible for middle Vernacular scholarships, and are awarded middle Vernacular certificates. The following shows the result of this examination:—

District.	Number of middle English schools.				Number of schools sending examinees.								Number of examinees.								Number passed.								Number who gained middle English scholarships.	Number who gained middle Vernacular scholarships.
					Departmental.		Aided.		Unaided.		Total.		Departmental.		Aided.		Unaided		Total.		Departmental.		Aided.		Unaided.		Total.			
	Departmental.	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.	English.	Vernacular.		
Cachar	1	1	..	2	1	1	1	1	..	..	2	2	3	7	3	2	..	..	6	9	2	6	3	1	..	..	5	7	2	2
Sylhet	..	17	3	20	..	..	14	14	1	1	15	15	..	..	36	45	..	3	36	48	..	..	29	40	..	2	29	42	5	5
Khási and Jain-Hills.	..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	14	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	1	..
Goálpára	1	3	..	4	1	1	2	2	..	..	3	3	..	..	2	3	..	..	2	3	..	..	2	7	..	..	2	7	1	
Kámrúp	..	3	..	3	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	..	2	1	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	4	5	..	..	4	5	..	..	1	6	..	..	1	6	1	1
Nowgong	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	7	..	..	1	7	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..
Sibságar	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	..	..	2	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	2	..	1
Manipur	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	3	31	11	45	3	3	24	12	2	2	29	26	5	7	52	71	14	5	71	81	3	6	38	58	2	2	43	66	10	13

Out of 45 schools, 29 competed and 26 were successful in passing candidates, against 28 and 23 respectively in the preceding year. From these 26 schools 71 candidates were sent up to the middle English and 81 to the middle Vernacular examinations, and 43 and 66 were respectively successful, against 66 and 67 competing and 28 and 44 successful candidates the year before, which shows a good deal of improvement. The Surma Valley schools, as usual, show much the best results, having passed 83 out of 109 for the Province.

Review of boys' middle Vernacular schools Government and aided, for the last five years.

38. The following statement contrasts boys' middle Vernacular schools, Government and aided, for the last five years:—

	Number of schools.	Roll number on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	Direct expenditure				Cost of educating each pupil.		
					Provincial.	Local and Municipal Funds.	Fees.	Total.	To the State.	To the public.	Total.
Departmental					Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1883-84	17	1,468	1,308	1,053	7,926	.....	4,823	12,749	6 0 11	3 11 0	9 11 11
1884 85	16	1,498	1,330	1,080	8,001	233	5,194	13,428	6 3 0	3 14 6	10 1 6*
1885-86	16	1,361*	1,283*	1,070*	8,767*	609	5,025	14,401*	7 4 11*	3 14 8*	11 3 7
1886-87	16	1,495	1,278	1,040	8,622	207	4,751	13,580	6 14 6	3 11 6	10 10 0
1887-88	15	1,411	1,313	1,097	8,855	.....	4,895	13,750	6 11 11	3 11 8	10 7 7
Aided.											
1883 84	28	1,901	1,670	1,254	...	5,731	7,387	13,118	3 6 11	4 6 9	7 13 8
1884-85	26	1,845	1,676	1,293	...	5,865	7,223	13,088	3 8 0	4 4 11	7 12 11
1885-86	26	1,756	1,621	1,266	...	5,772	7,439	13,211	3 9 0	4 9 5	8 2 0
1886-87	29	1,789	1,672	1,290	...	6,197	7,947	14,144	3 11 4	4 12 1	8 7 5
1887-88	30	1,905	1,745	1,389	...	6,324	8,902	15,226	3 9 11	5 1 7	8 11 6

* Includes the pupils and expenditure on the training class attached to the Normal School, Nowgong.

The loss of one departmental school is due to the closing of the Jaynagar School in Cachar. The attendance in this school fell off so much that it would have been a misapplication of funds to have carried it on. The loss of this school partly accounts for the loss of 84 pupils on the rolls on the 31st March; the average monthly strength, however, of the existing 15 schools was better than that of the 16 schools at work in the preceding year by 35, and the daily average attendance by 57. This has reduced the cost of educating each pupil by 2 annas 5 pie, and that to Government by 2 annas 7 pie. Of the total expnditure, 35·6 per cent. was covered by fees, against 34·9 in the preceding year.

The aided schools increased by one, the roll number by 116, the average monthly strength by 73, and the daily attendance by 99: the total cost of educating each pupil increased by 4 annas 1 pie, while that to Government fell off by 1 anna 5 pie. Of the total expenditure, 58·4 per cent. was covered by fees, fines, subscriptions, donations, &c., against 56·1 in the preceding year.

Statistics of boys' middle Vernacular schools

39. The following table gives further particulars of boys' middle Vernacular schools for the year under report, and an abstract for the preceding year :—

District	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils.			Direct expenditure				Cost of educating each pupil.		
		On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	From Government		From fees, fines, and other sources.	Total.	To Government	To the public.	Total.
					Provincial	Local funds.					
									Rs.As.P	Rs As.P	Rs.As P.
Departmental—											
Cachar	1	28	25	23	370	...	43	413	14 12 10	1 11 6	16 8 4
Sylhet	3	176	148	107	991	...	349	1,340	6 11 2	2 5 9	9 0 11
Kámrup	5	493	468	373	2,528	...	1,484	4,012	5 6 5	3 2 9	8 9 2
Darrang	2	207	191	162	1,700	...	614	2,314	8 14 5	3 3 5	12 1 10
Nowgong	1	158	149	131	942	...	542	1,484	6 5 2	3 10 2	9 15 4
Sibságar	1	145	140	128	1,136	...	730	1,866	8 1 10	5 3 5	13 5 3
Lakhimpur	2	204	192	173	1,188*	...	1,133	2,321	6 3 0	5 14 5	12 1 5
Total of Departmental Schools...	15	1,411	1,313	1,097	8,855	...	4,895	13,750	6 11 11	3 11 8	10 7 7
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	16	1,495	1,278	1,040	8,622	207	4,751	13,580	6 14 6	3 11 6	10 10 0
Aided—											
Sylhet	12	879	852	704	...	2,452	4,547	6,999	2 14 1	5 5 5	8 3 6
Goálpára	9	428	367	266	...	1,764	2,269	4,033	4 12 11	6 2 11	10 15 10
Kámrup	4	257	250	203	..	968	944	1,912	3 13 11	3 12 5	7 10 4
Darrang	2	122	93	64	...	420	498	918	4 8 3	5 5 8	9 13 11
Nowgong	2	179	157	129	...	480	504	984	3 0 11	3 3 4	6 4 3
Lakhimpur	1	40	26	23	...	240	140	380	2 3 8	5 6 2	14 9 10
Total of Aided Schools...	30	1,905	1,745	1,389	...	6,324	8,902	15,226†	3 0 11	5 1 7	8 11 6
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	29	1,789	1,672	1,219	...	6,197	7,947	14,144	3 11 4	4 12 1	8 7 5
Total of Unaided Schools					No school						
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	2	171	152	111	...	...	974	974	.....	6 6 6	6 6 6
Grand Total of departmental aided and unaided schools.	45	3,316	3,058	2,486	8,855	6,324	13,797	28,976	4 15 5	4 8 2	9 7 7
Ditto ditto for 1886-87...	47	3,455	3,102	2,441	8,622	6,404	13,672	28,698	4 13 6	4 6 8	9 4 2

* Includes Rs 131 spent by Public Works Department on repairs to Dibrugarh Vernacular School building
† Exclusive of Rs. 160 for a Middle Vernacular School in Cachar, abolished during the year namely, Rs 80 Local and Rs 80 from private sources

A comparison of this table with that in paragraph 47 of last year's report shows the loss of one departmental school, namely, the Jaynagar school in Cachar, already mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The number on the rolls on the 31st March decreased by 84, distributed to all districts except Kámrúp and Nowgong, but especially noticeable in Lakhimpur and Sibságar. The average monthly strength of departmental schools increased by 35, due to all districts except Cachar, where there was a loss of one school, and to Sibságar, where there was a loss of three pupils; the average daily attendance increased by 57, due to all districts except Cachar and Sylhet, where there was a loss of 14 and 7 respectively. The loss in Cachar is accounted for by the closing of the Jaynagar School, that in Sylhet is small, and when distributed over these schools does not need any comment. On the whole, the Kámrúp departmental schools show the largest increase. The percentage of daily attendance was good, being 84 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly, against 81 per cent. in the preceding year. The receipts show an increase of Rs. 141 distributed as follows :—To Cachar, Kámrúp, and Darrang a loss of Rs. 66, Rs. 32, and Rs. 39, with a gain to Sylhet, Nowgong, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur of Rs. 87, Rs. 44, Rs. 13, and Rs. 137 respectively.

The following were the changes in the aided middle Vernacular schools. The withdrawal of the grant from the Banskandi School in Cachar by the Local Board on account of the managers persisting in retaining the services of a head pandit, whom the Board,

with good reason, considered unfit for such a post; the increase of these schools in Sylhet to which grants were given during the year, the withdrawal of aid from the Hadirá school in the sub-division of Barpeta on account of low attendance; and, in Goálpára, the transfer of the Manikarchar School to the list of middle English schools, compensated by the Jamadár Hat Upper Primary School getting an increased grant and being transferred to the list of aided middle Vernacular schools. There were thus 30 aided middle Vernacular schools with 1,905 pupils, against 29 schools with 1,789 pupils, a gain of one school and 116 pupils. The average monthly strengthi ncreased by 73, and the average daily attendance by 90. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly was 79 per cent., against 77 per cent. in the preceding year, an increase which agrees very well with that in departmental schools. The receipts have increased by Rs. 955, while the cost to Government has only increased by Rs. 127, due principally to the new grants that were given during the year.

The table shows that there were no unaided middle Vernacular schools at work during the year. This is accounted for by the Dumuria School in Goálpára not having submitted returns, and the unaided school that was shown last year in Sibságar being transferred to the list of private schools, so that the loss of these two schools is only apparent.

Classification of pupils in boys' middle Vernacular schools according to religion.

40. Classified according to religion, the pupils in boys' middle Vernacular schools for the last five years stood as follows :—

Year.	Roll number on 31st March.	Hindus.	Percentage.	Muhammadans.	Percentage.	Others.	Percentage.
1883-84...	3,462	2,837	81·95	561	16·17	65	1·88
1884-85...	3,434	2,736	79·67	601	17·50	97	2·83
1885-86...	3,185	2,594	81·44	513	16·12	78	2·44
1886-87...	3,455	2,801	81·07	563	16·29	91	2·64
1887-88...	3,316	2,676	80·70	550	16·59	90	2·71

The loss of 139 pupils is due to the exclusion of the two unaided schools. The other changes are so slight that they need no comments.

Stage of instruction.

41. Of the 3,316 pupils, 515, or 15 per cent., were in the middle stage; 742, or 22 per cent., were in the upper primary stage; and 2,059, or just 63 per cent., were in the lower primary stage, a change so slight from the corresponding figures for last year that the differences do not need explanation. The figures for departmental and aided schools are also almost identical.

Middle Vernacular Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination for boys' schools.

42. The following table shows the result of the Middle Vernacular Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination for boys' schools. Middle English schools and private candidates are excluded from this table:—

District.	Number of middle Vernacular schools.				Number of schools sending examinees.								Number of examinees				Number passed				Number who gained middle Vernacular scholarships.
					Departmental		Aided.		Unaided.		Total.										
	Departmental.	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Competing schools.	Successful schools.	Departmental.	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.	Departmental.	Aided.	Unaided.	Total.	
Cachar	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet	3	12	..	15	1	1	11	10	..	..	12	11	4	59	..	63	3	49	..	52*	6
Goálpára	..	9	1	10	..	..	7	6	1	1	8	7	..	16	3	19	..	10	1	11	..
Kámrup .	5	4	..	9	5	5	3	3	..	..	8	8	30	15	..	51	28	14	..	49	7
Darrang ..	2	2	..	4	2	2	2	2	..	..	4	4	11	4	..	15	7	3	..	10	2
Nowgong..	1	2	..	3	1	1	2	2	..	..	3	3	6	11	..	17	6	9	..	15	3
Sibsagar .	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	..	..	3	1	..	..	1	..
Lakhimpur	2	1	..	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	2	9	..	..	9	6	..	..	6	2
Total..	15	30	1†	45	12	12	25	23	1	1	38	36	69	105	3	177	49	85	1	135	19

* Does not include five private students who passed.
† Statistics of this school not furnished, and therefore not included in General Table III., and hence difference of one school.

The number of competing schools was 38 (12 departmental, 25 aided, and on unaided), against 39 (14 departmental, 23 aided, and one unaided) in the preceding year. With the exception of one aided school in Sylhet and one aided school in Goálpára, all succeeded in passing candidates. Out of 177 candidates sent up, 135, or 76 per cent. were successful, against 74, or nearly 46 per cent. out of 161 in the preceding year. The percentage passed by departmental schools rose from 46 to 71 and that for aided schools from 45 to 81. This is certainly a great improvement on the result for the last few years. Sylhet, as usual, stands first, closely followed by Kámrúp; Nowgong and Dibrugarh also did very well, but I regret to say that Sibságar still stands at the bottom of the list.

(*b*) *Primary Schools for Boys.*

Comparison of boys' primary schools for the past two years.

43. The changes that occurred in boys' primary schools during the year under report are shown in the subjoined tables :—

Upper Primary Schools for Boys.

	1886-87.			1887-88.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.
Local Fund	17	723	43	13	559	43
Aided	88	3,443	39	89	3,464	39
Unaided	4	241	60	4	190	47
Total	109	4,407	40	106	4,213	40

Lower Primary Schools for Boys.

Departmental	22	303	14	24	289	12
Local Fund	1,225	35,210	29	1,224	35,877	29
Aided	325	9,217	28	394	12,006	30
Unaided	68	1,769	26	122	3,434	28
Total	1,640	46,499	28	1,764	51,606	29

Upper primary schools for boys have decreased by three, due to the closing of four Local Fund schools, and aid being given to a new school. The number on the rolls shows a loss of 194 pupils, due to the loss of three schools, and the falling off of the numbers attending unaided schools. Lower primary schools for boys increased by 124, the pupils by 5,107, and the average number of pupils to a school by one. The net increase for boys' primary schools was 121, or nearly 7 per cent., and for pupils 4,913, or 9 per cent.

Statistics of boys' upper primary schools.

44. The following table shows the particulars of boys' upper primary schools for each district:—

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils.			Direct expenditure				Cost of educating each pupil.		
		On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	From Government.		Other sources.	Total.	To Government.	To the public.	Total
					Provincial.	Local and Municipal Funds.					
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Local Board Schools—											
Sylhet	2	68	70	51	...	480	127	607	6 13 9	1 13 0	8 10 9
Kámrúp	9	436	409	314	...	1,090	495	1,585	2 10 8	1 3 4	3 14 0
Sibságar	2	55	41	30	...	200	44	244	4 14 1	1 1 2	5 15 3
Total Local Board Schools	13	559	520	395	...	1,770	666	2,436	3 6 6	1 4 6	4 11 0
Ditto ditto, 1886-87	17	723	681	509	...	1,925	901	2,826	2 13 3	1 5 2	4 2 5
Aided—											
Cachar	4	115	112	82	...	521	251	772	4 10 5	2 3 10	6 14 3
Sylhet	34	1,363	1,245	965	...	3,823	4,519	8,342	3 1 2	3 10 1	6 11 3
Goálpára	18	533	552	402	...	1,926	1,219	3,145	3 7 10	2 3 4	5 11 2
Kámrúp	2	156	154	117	...	390	304	694	2 8 6	1 15 7	4 8 1
Darrang	5	188	182	131	...	520	549	1,069	2 13 9	3 0 3	5 14 0
Nowgong	11	539	478	376	...	1,287	701	1,988	2 11 1	1 7 6	4 2 7
Sibságar	10	366	342	279	...	1,170	667	1,837	3 6 8	1 15 2	5 5 10
Lakhimpur	5	204	128	98	...	560	411	971	4 6 0	3 3 5	7 9 5
Total Aided Schools	89	3,464	3,193	2,450	...	10,197	8,621	18,818	3 3 1	2 11 2	5 14 3
Ditto for 1886-87	88	3,443	3,264	2,418	...	10,156	8,143	18,299	3 1 9	2 7 11	5 9 8
Unaided—											
Sylhet	3	148	111	99	...	...	316	316	.....	2 13 7	2 13 7
Kámrúp	1	42	25	25	..	...	23	23	.....	0 14 9	0 14 9
Total Unaided Schools	4	190	136	124	...	...	339	339	.....	2 7 11	2 7 11
Ditto for 1886-87	4	241	214	173	...	...	480	480	.....	2 8 11	2 8 11
Grand Total of Upper Primary Schools	106	4,213	3,849	2,969	...	11,967	9,626	21,593	3 1 9	2 8 0	5 9 9
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	109	4,407	4,159	3,100	...	12,081	9,524	21,605	2 14 6	2 4 8	5 3 2

Under Local Boards' upper primary schools there was a loss of three schools in Kámrúp, *viz.*, (1) the Bahari School, (2) the Nalbari School, which was raised to the status of a middle English school under the Grant-in-aid Rules, and (3) another school for which neither the name nor the reasons for closing have been given in the district report; in Cachar the Saidpur school was transferred to the aided list. There were thus 13 Local Fund schools with 559 pupils, against 17 schools with 723 pupils in the preceding year. The transfer of two schools to the aided list is quite in conformity with the policy of Government. The percentage of daily attendance on the average roll number monthly was, as in the preceding year, 74 per cent. The receipts are proportionately less than those for the preceding year; only 27 per cent. of the total expenditure, which fell by Rs. 390, being covered by them, against 32 per cent. in the preceding year.

Under Aided Upper Primary Schools, the following were the changes:—In Cachar the Phulbari and Barkhola schools closed for want of local support, and the Saidpur Local Board School was changed to a grant-in-aid school. There were thus 4 schools with 115 pupils at work, against 5 schools with 158 pupils in the preceding year. In Sylhet, 4 schools received aid, and one of the aided schools was transferred to the list of aided middle Vernacular schools, showing, on the whole, a gain of three schools. There were thus 34 schools with 1,363 pupils at work on the 31st March in Sylhet, against 31 schools with 1,245 pupils in the preceding year. In Goálpára the Jamadarhat Upper Primary School was raised to the status of an aided middle Vernacular school, and its place supplied by a grant-in-aid to a new school. Thus, as in the preceding year, there were 18 schools at work, with an increase of 3 pupils. In Kámrúp, Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibságar, there were no changes in the number of schools, Kámrúp shows an increase of 28 pupils, while

Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibságar show a loss of 22, 8, and 56 pupils respectively. The loss in Nowgong is accounted for by the failure of the Dabóka Upper Primary School, which was closed from the 1st April 1888. The district reports from Darrang and Sibságar offer no explanation for the falling off in these districts. In Lakhimpur there was a loss of one school and 7 pupils, accompanied by a loss of 105 on the average roll number monthly and 52 in daily attendance. Thus, for aided schools there was a gain of one school, 21 pupils, and 32 in the average daily attendance, while the average number on the rolls monthly fell by 71. This decrease, accompanied by an increase in the daily attendance, brought the percentage of daily attendance on the average strength to 76 per cent., against 74 in the preceding year. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 519, of which Rs. 478 was met by increased receipts, and the balance, Rs. 41, from the State. Of the total expenditure, 45 per cent. was covered by receipts, against 44 per cent. in the preceding year. These aided schools, therefore, proportionately cost Government less than the Local Board schools. The reason for this is that the Local Board upper primary schools have been started, as a rule, in backward places, where there was not sufficient local spirit to start grant-in-aid schools; in some cases, as in parts of Kámrúp, their action is partly justified on the ground that these upper primaries supply teachers to lower primary schools; but Local Boards exceed their powers when they start upper primary schools on other than the grant-in-aid system.

The unaided upper primary schools were 4, with 190 pupils, against 4, with 241 pupils, in the preceding year. Three of these schools were in Sylhet and one in Kámrúp.

For all upper primary schools there was a loss of 3 schools and 194 pupils; the average number on the rolls monthly and the average daily attendance fell by 310 and 131 respectively. The total expenditure fell by Rs. 12, while the receipts increased by Rs. 102, showing a saving to Government of Rs. 114. Of the total expenditure, as in the preceding year, 44 per cent. was covered by receipts.

Result of the Upper Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination for boys' upper primary schools.

45. Candidates from secondary schools for upper primary pass certificates are excluded from the following table, which shows the result of the Upper Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examinations for boys' upper primary schools alone:—

District.	Number of schools on the 31st March.	Number of schools which sent up candidates.	Number of candidates who competed.	Number of schools from which candidates passed.	Number of candidates who were passed.				
					In the first division.	In the second division.	In the third division.	Total.	Number of scholarships awarded.
Cachar	4	4	14	2	1	5	.....	6	2
Sylhet	39	29	90	28	13	31	29	73	14
Goálpára	18	10	30	5	3	6	3	12	4
Kámrúp	12	12	48	12	5	12	10	27	10
Darrang	5	5	18	4	5	6	4	15	6
Nowgong	11	11	58	10	3	11	20	34*	6*
Sibságar	12	10	38	6	1	1	10	12	3
Lakhimpur	5	3	10	2	.....	1	1	2	.....
Total	106	84	306	69	31	73	77	181	45

* One girl passed and obtained a scholarship.

Eighty-four schools competed, sending up 306 candidates, and 69 schools were successful, passing 181 candidates. This result is not quite as good as that of last year, when 73 schools passed 196 candidates, out of 296 sent up. Besides the upper primary schools, 9 secondary schools sent up 25 candidates, of whom 22 were successful. The percentage passed in the first and second divisions were 17 and 40, against 21 and 43 in the preceding year, which shows that the candidates were not quite so well prepared this year as in the year before. Lakhimpur did badly, only passing 2 candidates, and none of these were eligible for scholarship. Out of 12 passed from Sibságar, 6 from Cachar, and 12 from Goálpára, only 3, 2, and 4 candidates were eligible for scholarships. The scholarships not taken up by these districts were accordingly awarded in order of merit to passed candidates from other districts, with the restriction that 16 were reserved for the Surma and 30 for the Brahmaputra Valley. This accounts for 45 scholarships. The remaining one was awarded to a passed girl from the Nowgong Lower Primary Girls' School.

Statistics of boys' lower primary schools.

46. The following statement shows some of the particulars of boys' lower primary schools district by district and an abstract for the preceding year:—

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils.			Expenditure.				Cost of educating each pupil.		
		On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	From Government.		Other sources.	Total.	To Government.	To the public.	Total.
					Provincial.	Local and municipal					
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Departmental—											
Gáro Hills	1	14	13	8	120	.....	.....	120	9 3 8	.....	9 3 8
Kámrúp	1	12	14	11	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darrang	19	215	230	164	997	.....	.....	997	4 5 4	.....	4 5 4
Nága Hills	3	48	28	15	166	.....	.....	166	5 14 10	.....	5 14 10
Total	24	289	285	198	1,283	.....	.....	1,283	4 8 0	.....	4 8 0
Ditto for 1886-87	22	302	331	23.	1,090	.....	127	1,217	3 4 8	0 6 2	3 10 10
Local Fund and Municipal—											
Cachar	126	2,985	2,901	1,927	....	8,372	1,560	9,932	2 14 2	0 8 7	3 6 9
Sylhet	224	7,921	7,370	5,467	....	15,896	4,825	20,721	2 2 6	0 10 6	2 13 0
Goálpára	125	2,754	2,781	1,983	....	7,534	1,451	8,985	2 11 4	0 8 4	3 2 8
Kámrúp	262	8,159	7,759	5,724	....	15,943	3,151	19,094	2 0 11	0 6 6	2 7 5
Darrang	98	2,689	2,269	1,582	....	5,369	721	6,090	2 5 10	0 5 1	2 10 11
Nowgong	188	4,572	4,346	3,043	....	9,051	922	9,973	2 1 4	0 3 5	2 4 9
Sibságar	179	5,082	4,660	3,429	....	10,511	1,116	11,627	2 4 1	0 3 10	2 7 11
Lakhimpur	72	1,715	1,421	994	....	4,789	434	5,223	3 5 11	0 4 11	3 10 10
Total	1,224	35,877	33,507	24,159	....	77,465	14,190	96,655	2 5 0	0 6 9	2 11 9
Ditto for 1886-87	1,225	35,210	32,890	23,454	....	75,880	14,122	90,002	2 4 11	0 6 10	2 11 9
Aided—											
Sylhet	232	8,259	7,504	6,004	....	6,496	5,976	12,472	0 13 10	0 12 9	1 10 7
Khási Hills	109	2,508	2,557	1,697	5,397	.....	14,479	19,876	2 1 9	5 10 7	6 12 4
Gáro Hills	28	511	440	353	1,203	.....	672	1,875	2 11 9	1 8 5	4 4 2
Goálpára	8	196	178	100	391	96	265	662	2 3 8	1 7 10	3 11 6
Kámrúp	5	166	149	112	....	144	81	225	0 15 6	0 8 8	1 8 2
Sibságar	7	267	248	197	....	30	135	165	0 1 11	0 8 9	0 10 8
Nága Hills	5	99	125	100	45	.....	551	596	0 5 9	4 6 6	4 12 3
Total	394	12,006	11,201	8,563	6,946	6,766	22,159	35,871	1 3 7	1 15 8	3 3 3
Ditto for 1886-87	325	9,217	8,592	6,264	7,142	3,865	18,694	29,701	1 4 6	2 2 10	3 7 4
Total of Departmental, Local and aided páthsálas.	1,642	48,172	44,993	32,920	8,229	84,231	36,349	1,28,809	2 0 11	0 12 11	2 13 10
Ditto ditto for 1886-87	1,572	44,730	41,813	29,952	8,232	79,745	32,943	1,20,920	2 1 8	0 12 7	2 14 3
Unaided—											
Cachar	11	388	344	263	....	.....	144	144	.....	0 6 8	0 6 8
Sylhet	80	2,329	1,991	1,660	....	.....	834	834	.....	0 6 8	0 6 8
Goálpára	11	240	213	158	....	.....	25	25	.....	0 1 11	0 1 11
Kámrúp	5	137	126	102	....	.....	758	758	.....	6 0 3	6 0 3
Darrang	1	23	23	18	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong	5	114	91	59	....	.....	6	6	.....	0 1 1	0 1 1
Sibságar	2	35	29	20	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lakhimpur	7	168	113	89	...	.....	29	29	.....	0 4 1	0 4 1
Total	122	3,434	2,930	2,369	....	.....	1,796	1,796	.....	0 9 10	0 9 10
Total of unaided páthsálas for 1886-87.	68	1,769	1,605	1,240	....	.....	599	599	.....	0 5 4	0 5 4
Grand Total	1,764	51,606	47,923	35,289	8,229	84,231	38,145	1,30,605	1 14 10	0 12 9	2 11 7
Ditto for 1886-87	1,640	46,499	43,418	31,292	8,232	79,745	33,542	1,21,519	2 0 8	0 12 4	2 12 9

The departmental schools are those under the direct administration, (1) of the Deputy-Commissioners of the Gáro and Nága Hills, (2) those under the Secretary of the Gospel Mission, Darrang, for the education of Kacharis, and (3) the training *páthsala* attached to the normal school, Gauháti, which is taught by the pupils of that institution. There are also training *páthsalas* attached to the normal schools at Tezpur and Sibságar, but these have been included in Local Fund schools, and I have not the means of separating them. These training *páthsalas* are taught by the pupils of normal schools under the supervision of the head-master or head pandit, and thus, without any charge to the State, afford the means of primary education to a good many boys, and at the same time are most useful as a means of instructing the pupils of normal schools in the art of teaching. In other normal schools their place is supplied by the lower classes of the neighbouring middle Vernacular school. The aided schools are (1) those under the direct administration of the missionary bodies in the Khási and Jaintia Hills, the Gáro Hills, the Nága Hills and the Sonthal Colony in Goálpára, and (2) those *páthsalas* which are paid by rewards alone, and over which neither the department nor Local Boards exercise any control as to the appointment or dismissal of teachers. The unaided schools are, broadly speaking, expectant schools, *i.e.*, *páthsalas* started by ex-pupils or villagers with the ultimate hope of obtaining State aid in some form or other.

Excluding the unaided schools, there has been an increase of 70 schools and 3,442 pupils as follows—Under Departmental Schools a gain of 2 schools but a loss of 14 pupils.

The falling off here is due to the Kachári schools, Darrang, where the pupils fell from 262 to 215; under Local Fund Schools a loss of one school, but a gain of 667 pupils; and under Aided Schools a gain of 69 schools and 2,789 pupils. The daily attendance was 73 per cent. of the average number on the rolls monthly, *i.e.*, to departmental schools 69 per cent., to Local Fund and Municipal schools 72 per cent., and to aided schools 76 per cent. It is worth noting here that the aided schools in Sylhet, which are aided wholly by payments on results, had a percentage attendance of 80, while in the same district the Local Fund schools that received fixed pay supplemented by rewards had only a percentage attendance of 74; and again in both classes of schools the average number of pupils to a school, taking the monthly strength, which is a fairer criterion than the number on the rolls, was 32. These seem to indicate the advantage of the purely reward system over the combined. The total expenditure increased by Rs. 7,889, of which Rs. 3,406 was covered by receipts from fees, fines, and contributions, leaving a net increase to the State of Rs. 4,483. The Provincial grant to the mission in the Nága Hills was held in abeyance, and was not paid until after the close of the financial year, so that next year the Provincial grant to these schools will seem abnormally great. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 36,349, or 28 per cent., was covered by receipts, against 27 per cent. for the last two years.

The unaided schools have increased by 54, the pupils by 1,665, and the receipts by Rs. 1,197. The chief increase in the number of schools occurred in Sylhet, where the number rose from 50 to 80 per cent. In Kámrúp we find an increase of 4 schools and in receipts an increase of Rs. 758, or, in other words, the schools rose from one to five, and the receipts from Rs. 2 to Rs. 758. Nearly the whole increase in receipts in Kámrúp is due to the three schools under the Revd. C. E. Burdette, of the American mission.

Classification of pupils in upper and lower boys' primary schools according to religion

47. The following statement shows the classification of the pupils in upper and lower boys' primary schools according to religion :—

District.	Number of pupils on rolls on 31st March.	Hindus.	Percentage.	Muhammadans.	Percentage.	Others.	Percentage.
Cachar	3,488	1,429	40·97	943	27·04	1,116	31·99
Sylhet.....	20,088	13,134	65·38	6,302	31·37	652	3·25
Khási Hills	2,508	30	1·20	5	·20	2,473	98·60
Gáro „	525	79	15·05	55	10·48	391	74·47
Goálpára	3,723	2,495	67·02	673	18·07	555	14·91
Kámrúp.....	9,108	7,814	85·79	873	9·59	421	4·62
Darrang.....	3,115	2,666	85·58	174	5·59	275	8·83
Nowgong	5,225	4,397	84·15	240	4·59	588	11·26
Nága Hills.....	147	17	11·56	1	·68	129	87·76
Sibságar.....	5,805	5,242	90·30	308	5·31	255	4·39
Lakhimpur.....	2,087	1,510	72·35	55	2 64	522	25·01
Total	55,819	38,813	69·53	9,629	17·25	7,377	13·22
Total 1886-87	15,906	35,793	70·31	8,078	15·87	7,035	13·82

In comparing the above with the similar table in paragraph 56 of last year's report, the Nága Hills is excluded, as the returns for the year 1886-87 were imperfect. Under "Hindus" we find a falling off in the percentage in every district except Goálpára, Darrang, and Lakhimpur; under "Muhammadans" an increase in the percentage in every district except the Khási and Jaintia Hills, where the absolute number and percentage remain the same, and in Kámrúp, where, though the number of Muhammadans increased, the percentage fell by ·23; and under "Others" a decrease in Cachar, Goálpára, Darrang, Sibságar, and Lakhimpur. The increase, both actually and relatively, of the Muhammadans is satisfactory; but the decrease of "Others" in Darrang and Lakhimpur, both in the actual number of these pupils and relatively to the number at school, is not satisfactory, and would seem to indicate that such tribes as the Kachári, Miris, &c., have not attended as well as in past years.

Stage of instruction of boys' upper and lower primary schools

48. Full details of the stage of instruction are given in General Table V. Here it will be sufficient to note that out of 55,819 pupils, 1,087 were in the upper primary stage, against 1,163 out of 50,906 in the preceding year; the balance were in the lower primary stage, *viz.*, 45,171 learning from printed books, and 9,561 not using printed books, against 40,611 and 9,132 respectively in the preceding year. The pupils who do not now use printed books are those of the last classes of primary schools, who now learn to write and read from figures and on plantain-leaves or on the school floor. Nearly all these will eventually learn from printed books, and they may fairly be taken as representing the number of pupils in the alphabet stage in primary schools in the plains, for in the hills all use printed books.

Lower primary scholarship and pass certificate examinations for boys' schools.

49. At the Conference held at Shillong last autumn, it was proposed to hold a common examination for lower primary scholarships and pass certificates for the plains districts. The Chief Commissioner approved of this proposal, and the examination was accordingly held in March. The subjoined table compares the result of this examination with those of the examinations held by the several districts in the preceding year :—

District.	Number of primary schools which sent up candidates.		Number of candidates who competed.		Number of schools from which candidates passed.		Number of candidates who were passed.								Number of scholarships awarded.	
							In the first division.		In the second division.		In the third division.		Total.			
	1886-87.	1887-88.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1886-87.	1887-88	1886-87.	1887-88.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1886-87.	1887-88	1886-87.	1887-88.	1886-88.	1887-88.
Cachar	58	76	149	173	38	36	22	12	33	21	9	15	64	48	14	14
Sylhet	212	233	709	739	164	160	178	161	157	142	55	28	390	331	31	33
Khási and Jaintia Hills.	23	11	49	35	18	7	28	12	6	3	2	...	36	15	2	4
Goálpára	43	38	76	71	30	9	3	1	24	3	16	5	43	9	14	5
Kámrúp.....	181	188	582	605	122	137	115	51	119	161	45	85	279	297	32	33
Darrang.....	38	49	146	173	29	41	6	18	28	26	14	8	48	52	14	14
Nowgong	81	97	327	400	60	33	128	31	65	51	16	16	209	98	11	17
Sibságar.....	77	72	200	220	49	31	41	10	50	21	16	19	107	50	27	27
Lakhimpur	31	39	116	140	27	13	20	2	29	8	21	16	70	26	10	10
Total	744	803	2,354	2,556	537	467	541	298	511	436	194	192	1,246	926	155	157

Candidates from Sylhet obtained the first six places on the list of passed students in order of merit, and also the next 44 places, with the following exceptions:—Candidates from Nowgong got the 7th, 21st, 22nd, 27th, 31st, and 47th places; Darrang the 10th and 37th places; Sibságar, the 14th place; Lakhimpur, the 17th place; and Cachar, the 46th place.

Comparing the result of the two years, the table shows that Kámrúp and Darrang are the only districts that passed more candidates in the year under report than in the preceding year; in Darrang, Mangaldai did very much better than the sadr; Goálpára did very badly, only passing 9 candidates out of 71 competing, and only one of these passed in the first division; Lakhimpur also did badly, only passing 26 out of 140; Nowgong only passed 98 out of 400, but 31 of these were in the first division; Sibságar passed 50 out of 220. On the whole, out of 2,556 candidates, 926, or 36 per cent., passed, against 1,246 or 53 per cent., out of 2,354 in the preceding year. I was quite prepared for this falling off, as I felt sure the standards arrived at in different districts were very unequal. In addition to candidates from boys' lower primary schools, 22 upper primary schools and 5 middle schools sent up 96 and 39 candidates for certificates. Of these 24 and 28 were successful.

50. As this was the first time that the same papers were given to all plains districts for the Lower Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination, I think it will be interesting to draw some comparison as to the relative efficiency of the several districts. Clearly, it would not do to classify the districts according to the numbers passed, or according to the percentage of passed on competing candidates, as both the number of pupils and those competing differ widely in the several districts. For comparison, I think the fairest standard is the percentage of passed candidates on the total number attending

school. I have accordingly prepared the subjoined statement on this basis, adding other interesting figures:—

District	Roll number on 31st March.	Number of candidates competing.	Number of passed candidates.	Percentage of passed candidates on roll number.	Percentage of competing candidates on roll number.	Percentage of passed candidates on those competing.	Percentage of schools that passed candidates on total number of schools.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Kámrúp	8,474	605	297	3·5	7·13	49·	48·7
Nowgong	4,686	400	98	2·09	8·53	24·5	23 7
Sylhet	18,509	739	331	1·78	3·99	44·7	29·8
Darrang	2,927	173	52	1·77	5·9	30·	34·7
Cachar	3,373	173	48	1·42	5·12	27 7	26·2
Lakhimpur	1,883	140	26	1·38	7 43	18·5	16·4
Sibságar	5,384	220	50	·93	4·08	22·7	16·4
Goálpára	3,190	71	9	·28	2·22	11·5	9·2
Total	48,426	2,521	911	1·88	5·21	36·1	26·7

Kámrúp has done very well. It has passed the highest percentage of candidates on the roll number, and also the percentage of successful schools on the total number of schools is better than for any other district, and column 7 shows that the pupils sent up were better prepared than those from other districts, while column 6 shows that more than the average number for the Province competed, Nowgong and Lakhimpur alone having in this respect higher figuers according to the percentage of passes on the roll number. Nowgong comes next, but there is here a great falling off in the percentage of passes on the number competing, showing that the candidates were not generally well prepared, and column 8 shows that the successful candidates were confined to a limited number of schools. Sylhet and Darrang may be considered together, as far as percentages of passes on roll numbers are concerned; but Darrang stands first if the percentage of successful schools is considered, while column 7 shows that the competing candidates from Sylhet were very much better prepared than those from Darrang. In this respect Sylhet stands next to Kámrúp. Cachar and Lakhimpur come next in order. Column 7 shows that as a rule the candidates from Lakhimpur were not well prepared, and column 8 shows that the successful candidates from Lakhimpur were confined to a few picked schools. Sibságar and Goálpára come last but one, and last in order of merit. It does not surprise me at all that Goálpára is last in every respect, for it is undoubtedly the most backward district in Assam in an educational point; but that Sibságar, the leading district of the valley, should stand so low would have been indeed a matter of surprise, had not my inspection last winter quite prepared me for this result.

Scholarships.

51. The sanctioned number of lower primary scholarships for the year was 152, to which are to be added 18, which may be given under the 10 per cent. rule, total 170. Of these, 157 were awarded to boys, and one to a girl in the Khási Hills, making a total of 158. There were no eligible candidates to take up the 12 remaining scholarships in the districts to which they were allotted, and as these scholarships are paid from Local Funds, scholarships not taken up in one district cannot, like middle scholarships, be transferred to another. In Goálpára, only 9 candidates passed, and, of these, only 5 were eligible for scholarships. 9 scholarships, out of the 14 for this district, were therefore unallotted. In Lakhimpur there were only 10 eligible candidates for the 11 scholarships, and in many of the districts, in order to fill up the scholarships, more than one had to be given to the same school. The sadr sub-divisions in Lakhimpur and Cachar did not gain a single scholarship, as not one of the passed candidates were eligible.

Payments by results.

52. The system of payments by results first came into general application in April 1885, but in the district of Sylhet it was in force in a rudimentary form since 1883. In the application of the system there are two methods in force, (1) the combined system where a *guru*, in addition to a small fixed monthly pay, receives a reward for each pupil he passes in certain subjects, and (2) payments by rewards alone, where the *guru* gets no fixed pay, but receives a reward for each pupil who passes in certain subjects. Both systems are being tried in Sylhet, and the Deputy-Inspector is in favour of payments by rewards alone; in the other districts only the combined system has been tried, except in a few schools in the Jorhát sub-division, since the transfer of Babu Ambika Charan Das, Sub-Inspector of Schools, from South Sylhet to that sub-division. The system has met with marked success in Sylhet and Kámrúp, and has done fairly well in the schools in which it has been tried in Nowgong, Darrang, Sibságar, and Goálpára. Broadly speaking, the success of the scheme varied with the degree of intelligence and interest with which it was worked. The success of the scheme chiefly depends on the way in which it is worked by Sub-Inspectors; if they hold the examinations regularly and promptly pay the rewards, I have not the least doubt but that the system will be very popular with all good teachers who are anxious for the advancement of their pupils; but lazy, indolent, unqualified teachers, who care nothing for the advancement of their pupils, naturally object, as under the reward system, in order to get an income equal to that they formerly received as fixed pay, they must not only work hard to pass their pupils at the reward examinations, but also use their utmost influence with the villagers to send their children to school, as every extra pupil tells at the examination time. Under the fixed pay system many teachers were utterly indifferent as to the number of pupils attending their schools, provided they had the minimum number that entitled them to get their pay.

53. I think it will be interesting to compare the working of schools maintained and aided under the Reward Rules with those on fixed pay alone. In the following comparisons I have only taken into account the schools maintained by the Boards on fixed pay and those maintained or aided under the reward system.

In Cachar, 104 of the 126 lower primary schools maintained by the Boards were exempted from the operation of the Reward Rules. These 104 schools received Rs. 7,041, or Rs. 67·7 per school as fixed pay, and Rs. 1,395, or Rs. 13·4 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 81·1 per school. The 22 schools under the combined system of rewards received Rs. 1,030, or Rs. 46·8 per school, as fixed pay, Rs. 311, or Rs. 14·1 per school, as rewards, and Rs. 165 or 7·5 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 68·4 per school. The reward system has not yet had a fair trial in this district. Since April its operation has been extended to most of the schools, and I have no doubt that if the rules are intelligently worked that they will do much to improve primary education in this district.

In Sylhet there were 232 lower primary schools under the Reward Rules alone. These schools are aided in the strict meaning of the term, that is, neither the department nor Local Boards have any voice in the appointment of the *gurus* or the internal management of the schools, and the only payment they receive from Government is the amount earned under the Reward Rules. During the year these 232 schools earned Rs. 6,496, or Rs. 28 per school, as rewards, and received Rs 5,976, or Rs. 25 7 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 53·7 per school. There were also 224 lower primary schools maintained by the Boards. Some few of these were exempted from the combined system of rewards; but I am unable to give the exact number, as the supplementary returns asked for from the several Sub-Inspectors give a different total from that submitted in the district report. These 224 schools received Rs. 15,896, or Rs. 70·9 per school, as fixed pay and rewards, and Rs. 4,835, or Rs. 21·5 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 92·4 per school. The maintained schools, therefore, on an average earned Rs. 38·7 more than the aided schools; but, notwithstanding, we find that the aided schools are supplementing the maintained school, and, with the more liberal scale of rewards which came into force in April, I have no doubt that these schools will earn sufficient for their maintenance. In a financial view the Boards have been able to supply education under the aided system to 8,259 pupils, at a cost of Rs. 6,496, against educating 7,921 pupils at a cost of Rs. 15,896 under the maintained and combined systems. This at once seems to show the advantage of the aided over the other systems for the development of primary education.

In Goálpára there were 125 lower primary schools maintained by the Local Boards at a cost of Rs. 7,534 from Local Funds and Rs. 1,451 from fees and other sources. 83

of these schools were placed under the combined system of rewards, and received for fixed pay Rs. 3,412, or Rs. 41·4 per school, from rewards Rs. 947, or Rs. 11·4 per school, and from other sources Rs 890, or Rs. 10·6 per school, total Rs. 63·4 per school. The remaining 42 schools, which were exempted from the operations of the rules under the discretionary power allowed to the Local Boards, on the grounds that these schools are situated in backward places, received Rs. 3,143, or Rs. 74·8 per school, as fixed pay, and Rs. 561, or Rs. 13·3 from other sources, total Rs. 88·1. This would, at first sight, seem to show that the teachers under the Reward Rules were losers, but such I do not think is the case, as the 42 exempted schools are mostly in backward localities, where the maximum monthly pay is allowed, and some of these are also subsidised, *i.e.*, receive extra allowance for preparing boys to be *gurus*. But the most striking feature seems to me to be that the backward schools receive from fees and subscriptions on an average Rs. 13·3, while the reward schools in favoured localities, and in the heart of civilisation, only get from these sources Rs. 10·6. The Deputy-Inspector reports that he and the Sub-Inspector of Goálpára held meetings of the *pandits* and *gurus* in which instructions regarding improved methods of teaching and the maintenance of discipline were given to these men.

In Kámrúp, out of 262 lower primary schools maintained by the Local Boards, 30 were exempted from the operation of the rules. These 30 schools received Rs. 1,658, or Rs. 55·2 per school, as fixed pay, and Rs. 273, or Rs. 9·1 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 64·3 per school. The 232 schools under the combined system of rewards received Rs. 11,358, or 48·9 per school, as fixed pay, Rs. 2.927, or Rs. 12·5 per school, as rewards, and Rs. 2,878, or 12·4 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 73·8 per school. Thus, in this district the reward schools were decidedly the gainers. Both the Deputy and Sub-Inspectors of Schools worked the rules intelligently, and on the 15th March the Deputy-Inspector held a meeting at Gauháti, at which 120 *gurus* were present, and to these men he fully explained the Reward Rules, pointing out their advantages. During my winter inspection I saw some of the reward schools in this district, and was struck with their efficiency, and especially the advancement of the last two classes. There is no doubt but that the Kámrúp lower primary schools have improved very much in the last three years, and I agree with the Deputy-Inspector in tracing the improvement to the introduction of the Reward Rules.

In Darrang, 38 of the 98 lower primary schools maintained by the Board were exempted from the operation of the rules. These 38 schools received Rs. 2,034, or Rs. 53·5 per school as fixed pay and Rs. 169, or Rs. 4·4 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 57·9 per school. The 60 schools under the combined system of rewards received Rs. 2,439, or Rs. 40·6 per school as fixed pay, Rs. 896, or Rs. 14·9 per school as rewards, and Rs. 552, or Rs. 9·2 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 64·7 per school. Thus, both in the amounts received from Local Funds and from fees and other sources, the schools under the combined system were better off than the exempted schools, and if the examinations for rewards had been more regular in Mangaldai, I have no doubt the school would have done still better; even as it is, the returns seem to show that the Mangaldai schools were more efficient than those in the sadr, as the former on an average earned Rs. 16·8 per school, against Rs. 12·3 per school in the sadr. This is also further confirmed by the result of the Lower Primary Examination, which shows that the Mangaldai schools did very much better than those in the sadr. Taking all circumstances into account, the scheme has worked fairly well in this district.

In Nowgong, out of 138 lower primary schools maintained from Local Funds, 72 schools were exempted by the Local Board from the operations of the Reward Rules. These 72 schools received Rs. 4,618, or Rs. 64·1 per school, as fixed pay, and Rs. 717, or Rs. 9·9 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 74 per school. The 66 schools under the combined system of rewards received Rs. 3,163, or Rs. 47·9 per school, as fixed pay, Rs. 1,250, or Rs. 18·9 per school, as rewards, and Rs. 205 or Rs. 3·1 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 69·9 per school. Here, as in Goálpára, the exempted schools got more from fees, &c., than the reward schools; but I am not quite certain that the returns from fees, &c., are accurate, for of the 66 reward schools, 41 are in the sadr. The Deputy-Inspector states that the fees for these 41 schools came to Rs. 128, but for the 25 reward schools under the Sub-Inspector he was unable to separate the figures, so for comparison I have put them down at the same rate, *viz.*, Rs. 3·1 per school. Had it not been for the difference in the receipts from fees, the reward schools would have earned more per school than the exempted ones; but as the receipts from fees is a factor over which we have no control, it may be excluded, and thus we find

that on the whole the reward schools were no losers in the average amount earned from Local Funds, but rather gainers. On the whole, the schools in which the Reward Rules have been tried have done fairly well, and I think the rules should be more generally applied.

In Sibságar, 52 of the 179 lower primary schools maintained from Local Funds were exempted from the operations of the Reward Rules. These 52 schools received Rs. 2,773, or Rs. 53·3 per school as fixed pay, and Rs. 377, or Rs. 7·1 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 60·4 per school. The 127 schools under the combined system of rewards got Rs. 6,171, or Rs. 48·5 per school as fixed pay, Rs. 1,567, or Rs. 12·3 per school, as rewards, and Rs. 739, or Rs. 5·8 per school, from fees, &c., total Rs. 66·6 per school. So on an average the schools under the Reward Rules were better off than the exempted schools The seven schools under rewards alone were started towards the end of the year, and it is too soon to offer any opinion as to their success.

In Lakhimpur, 25 of the 72 lower primary schools maintained from Local Funds, were exempted from the operation of the Reward Rules These 25 schools received Rs. 2,361, or Rs. 94·4 per school, as fixed pay, and Rs. 95, or Rs. 3·8 per school, from fees; total Rs. 98·2 per school. The 47 schools under the combined system of rewards received Rs. 1,932, or Rs. 41·1 per school, as fixed pay, Rs. 495, or Rs. 10·5 per school, as rewards, and Rs. 339, or Rs. 7 from fees, &c , total Rs. 58·6 per school. The first point to be remarked on is, that the 25 exempted schools received Rs. 2,361 as fixed pay, or just on an average Rs. 8 per school per mensem. Now for ordinary exempted schools the maximum fixed pay allowable under the rules is Rs. 6 per month, and for hill tribe schools Rs. 10 per month. If 12 of these schools were for hill tribes on Rs. 10 per month, and 13 on Rs. 6 per month, the fixed pay for the 25 would come to Rs. 2,376, a figure so close to that given by the Deputy-Inspector for these schools that I am led to believe that the 25 exempted schools, or at least most of them, were either for hill tribes, or in very backward localities where the maximum pay was allowed. The district report absolutely gives no information regarding these schools, and the above is the only explanation I can think of, which will account for these 25 schools getting on an average just Rs. 8 per month. If this supposition be correct, it is fruitless to compare the schools under the combined system of rewards with these 25 schools, which, for special reasons, received more than the ordinary rate of pay. Secondly, the district report shows that the 23 schools under the combined system of rewards in the North Lakhimpur sub-division earned Rs. 299, or Rs. 13 per school, while the 24 in the sadr only earned Rs. 196, or Rs. 8 per school. The difference here is very remarkable, and I think the bad results in the sadr were due to irregular inspection. The Sub-Inspector had only 24 reward schools under him, and *prima facie* there seems to be no reason why each school should not have been examined once a quarter, but I find that in the first quarter only 11 schools were examined, in the second quarter 14, in the third quarter 17, and in the fourth quarter 12. For North Lakhimpur I have not received any figures as to the order in which the schools under the combined system were examined for rewards.

54. The following are brief summaries of the state of primary education in each district:—

55. *Cachar.*—The Saidpur Local Fund upper primary school was transferred to the aided list, and the Phulbari and Barkhola aided upper primary schools failed for want of local support. Thus, there was a loss of two upper primary schools and 86 pupils. Fourteen boys competed at the Upper Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examination, 6 passed and 2 obtained scholarships. The total expenditure came to Rs. 772, of which Rs. 251, or 32 per cent., was realised from fees, fines, &c.

	1886-87.	1887-88.
Sadr	69	80
Hailákándi.....	56	57
	125	137

Boys' lower primaries were 126 Local Fund schools, with 2,985 pupils, and 11 unaided with 388 pupils, total 137 schools with 3,373 pupils against 125 schools, with 3,136 pupils, a gain of 12 schools and 237 pupils: of the 126 Local Board schools, 6 were garden schools with 141 pupils, against 6 schools and 130 pupils in the preceding year; and of the 141 pupils, 101 were children of garden coolies. The managers of the gardens where these schools are located paid Rs. 271 out of a total of Rs. 671 in support of the schools, so that they not only take an interest in education, but try to forward it by material assistance. The percentage of daily

attendance on the average monthly strength of all lower primary schools was only 67 per cent., or 10 less than in Sylhet and 6 less than the average for the Province. This is not at all satisfactory.

56. *Sylhet.*—Boys' upper primaries were two Local Fund schools (for which special sanction was obtained) with 68 pupils, 34 aided with 1,363 pupils, and three unaided with 148 pupils, total 39 schools with 1,579 pupils, a gain of two schools and 9 pupils. 50 boys competed at the Upper Primary Examination, 73 were successful, and 14 obtained scholarships. The total expenditure on all these schools came to Rs. 9,265, of which Rs. 4,962, or 53 per cent, was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primaries were 224 Local Fund schools with 7,921 pupils, 232 aided schools with 8,259, and 80 unaided schools with 2,329 pupils, total 536 schools with 18,509 pupils, against 473 schools and 16,148 pupils in the preceding year, a gain of 63 schools and 2,361 pupils. A glance at the marginal figures shows a curious fact, *viz.*, that there has been an increase in the number of schools in every sub-division except Habiganj This is the more extraordinary still when we take into account that Habiganj is decidedly the most advanced sub-division in the district, and further that it was worked by two Sub-Inspectors, whereas there was only one Sub-Inspector in each of the other sub-divisions. When on tour in Sylhet, cases were brought to my notice, in which applicants for aid had been put off with evasive answers, or their cases kept so long pending by the Local Board that the schools collapsed. The Deputy-Inspector of Schools considers that this is the main reason why Habiganj shows no increase in the number of lower primary schools, and I am inclined to agree with him. At the same time he points out that, with a loss of one school, there has been a gain of 468 pupils. It would thus seem that the Local Board paid more attention to improving existing schools than increasing their number. Another point worthy of notice is that Local Board schools, *i.e.*, those maintained by fixed pay and those maintained partly by fixed pay combined with rewards, fell from 242 to 224, while those aided by rewards alone, to which no fixed pay was given, rose from 180 to 232; the unaided or expectant schools also rose from 68 to 80.

	1886-87.	1887-88.
North Sylhet	85	113
Sunámganj	66	73
Habiganj	100	99
South Sylhet	100	107
Karimganj	119	144
Total	473	536

57. *Khási and Jaintia Hills.*—There are no upper primary schools. Boys' lower primaries were 109 with 2,508 pupils, against 107 schools with 2,505 pupils, a gain of two schools and three pupils. The daily attendance was somewhat better than in 1886-87, being 66 per cent. of the average number rolls monthly, against 61 per cent. The district report does not show that there has been any material improvement in the efficiency of these schools, and it is hard to expect that any substantial improvement can be made while the school hours are so short. The Sub-Inspectors report that the schools work for about one and a half hour in the morning, or for about the same time in the evening after 7 o'clock, and that a few schools sit both morning and evening to suit the convenience of the boys. . With nominal school hours of one and a half hour, much cannot be expected, simply a little reading and less writing, with a *soupçon* of arithmetic here and there.

	1886-87.	1887-88.
Khási Hills	75	71
Jaintia Hills	32	38
Total	107	109

58. *Gáro Hills.*—On the 31st March under the Mission there were 28 schools with 511 pupils, against 30 schools with 398 pupils in 1886-87, and under the Deputy-Commissioner 1 school with 14 pupils, against 2 schools with 24 pupils in the preceding year: total 29 schools with 525 pupils, against 32 schools with 422 pupils, a loss of 3 schools, but a gain of 103 pupils. The Mission reports that through the year there were 42 schools at work, and of these 14 were closed. Of the 14 closed schools, 11 were schools that had been at work in 1886-87, and 3 were schools started during the year under report. The Secretary of the Mission considers that the Gáro Hills schools have improved in almost every respect, but I look on the constant closing and opening of schools as unsatisfactory, and consider it impossible to show real improvement when schools only exist for a year or two.

59. *Goálpára.*—As in the preceding year, there were 18 boys' upper primary schools, with a gain of 3 pupils; 30 candidates were sent up to the Upper Primary

Examination, 12 passed, and 4 obtained scholarships. One of their best schools, that at Jamadarhat, was raised to a middle school, or the result would have been better. The total expenditure came to Rs. 3,145, of which Rs 1,219, or 38 per cent, was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primaries were 125 Local Board schools with 2,754 pupils, 8 aided schools with 196 pupils, and 11 unaided schools with 240 pupils: total 144 schools with 3,190 pupils, against 131 schools with 2,893 pupils, a gain of 13 schools and 297 pupils. The 8 aided schools were, 7 under the Gáro Mission with 135 pupils, and one in the Sonthal colony with 61 pupils. In the Sonthal colony school the head boys are working rule-of-three and reading "Bodhodaya" both in Bengali and Sonthali; in the Gáro Schools the head boys are reading "Akhyan-munjuri," Part I, and a little Bengali grammar. Subsidised *pathsálas* are for the preparation of teachers for lower primary schools, or, in other words, the pandit receives from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 extra for preparing certain picked boys to become *gurus*. They are three in number, and are situated in the Eastern Duárs. In each of these schools two boys are being prepared as *gurus* and receive stipends from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 2 per month. The subsidised *pathsálas* were the Bijni with 46 pupils, 5 were stipendiaries, and 3 of these have started schools; the Kakragoan with 49 pupils; and the Tamarhat with 30 pupils A good many Mech boys attend the two former. These boys sometimes come from a great distance, and reside in the school compound, where they build grass huts to live in, going home on Saturdays and holidays for rice and other food. Most of the stipendiaries are chosen from these boys, in the hopes of inducing them to start schools in their own villages. In advanced parts of the district, where there are middle schools, boys receive stipends of the same value to prepare themselves as teachers, and there were two such stipendiaries at Patamari and three at Amguri middle Vernacular schools. For all lower primary schools the percentage of daily attendance was 70 per cent. of the average roll number monthly.

	1886-87.	1887-88.
Sadr (Dhubri)	69	72
Goálpára	62	72
Total	131	144

60. *Kámrúp.*—Boys' upper primary schools were 12 (9 Local Board, 2 aided, and 1 unaided), with 631 pupils, against 14 schools with 690 pupils in 1886-87, a loss of two schools and 56 pupils, due to the closing of one school and the raising of the Nalbari school to an aided middle English school. 48 candidates appeared at the Upper Primary Examination, 27 passed, and 10 obtained scholarships. The 12 schools sent up candidates, and all succeeded in passing some. This is the only district in the Province that has done so. The total expenditure on these schools came to Rs. 2,302, of which Rs. 822, or 35 per cent., was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primaries were 273 (1 departmental, 262 Local Fund, 5 aided and 5 unaided) with 8,474 pupils, against 269 schools (268 Local Board and 1 unaided) with 7,424 pupils in 1886-87, a gain of 4 schools and 1,050 pupils. The large increase of pupils is attributed by the Deputy-Inspector to the introduction of the Reward Rules, which are in force in 233 schools. Their introduction has, he affirms, put the *gurus* on their mettle to obtain the largest possible number of boys at each school, so that at the time of examination they may earn large rewards. The 5 aided schools are under the Revd. C. E. Burdette, for which he receives a monthly grant of Rs. 30, or Rs. 6 per school, from the Gauháti Local Board. These schools are situated in the hills near the Kulsi, and were attended by 166 pupils, 100 being converted Gáros, 65 unconverted Gáros, and 1 Raba. Mr. Burdette also maintains three schools, for which he obtains no aid. For all lower primary schools the daily attendance was 72 per cent. of the average roll number monthly.

	1886 87.	1887 88.
Sadr	213	212
Barpeta	56	61
Total	269	273

61. *Darrang.*—There were 5 boys' upper primary schools, as in the preceding year; but the pupils fell from 210 to 188, the average strength and daily attendance show some improvement, being 182 and 131, against 174 and 116 respectively. The five schools sent up 18 candidates, and 4 schools succeeded in passing 15 candidates, of whom 6 were awarded scholarships. The total expenditure came to Rs. 1,069, of which Rs. 549, or 51 per cent., was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primaries were 19 departmental schools under the Gospel Mission with 215 pupils, 98 Local Fund schools with 2,689 pupils, and 1 unaided school with 23 pupils: total 118 schools with 2,927 pupils, against 109 schools and 2,720 pupils, a gain of 9 schools and 200 pupils. The departmental schools under the administration of the Secretary to the Gospel Mission were the same in number as in the preceding year, but there was a falling off of 47 in the roll number, accompanied by a corresponding falling off in the daily attendance. Mr. Flynn, the Secretary, reports that two or three schools lost their teachers during the year; but he thought it better to keep these schools closed for a time, as

	1886-87	1887-88.
Sadr	48	50
Mangaldai	61	68
Total	109	118

none of the pupils he had in the normal school were quite up to the mark, than to send out unqualified teachers; in this I quite agree with him. There is no doubt that many of his teachers are lamentably ignorant, and real improvement cannot be looked for in the Kachári schools until the present teachers are replaced by more competent men; but the difficulty is to get qualified Kachári teachers, for the Kachárís are such a clannish race that Assamese teachers will not as a rule succeed in their villages. Concerning the Kachári schools, Mr. Flynn writes as follows:—

"The one striking feature about these village schools is that they are not village schools ordinarily so called, but so many boarding schools established over the Kachári duárs. The pandit lives with his pupils. The boys sometimes come from distant villages, and bring rice, &c., with them. Thus, it will be seen that the influence of these schools is far greater than if they were simply village schools, and were attended only by boys of the village in which they stand."

I visited a good many of these schools with Mr. Flynn, and found one school in which there was not a single boy from the village attending. Half of the pupils were well advanced. I examined them in arithmetic, and if they knew the other subjects as well as they did arithmetic, would certainly have done well at the Lower Primary Examination. The teacher of this school is a well educated man, and his school was chiefly composed of recruits from the first classes of the neighbouring Kachári schools. This seems to me to indicate that with better teachers the Kachári schools would soon show a good deal of improvement. For all lower primary schools the daily attendance was 65 per cent. of the average roll number monthly, against 73 per cent. for the Province. This was not good.

62. *Nowgong.*—There were no changes during the year in the upper primary schools, but the pupils fell off from 547 to 539, wholly due to the Daboka school, which has since closed. 58 candidates were sent up to the Upper Primary Examination, 34 passed, and 6 boys and one girl were awarded scholarships. The result is good, but not as good as that of 1886-87, when 42 candidates passed out of 66. The total expenditure came to Rs. 1,988, of which Rs. 701, or 35 per cent., was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primaries were 138 Local Fund schools with 4,572 pupils, and 5 unaided with 114 pupils, total 143 schools and 4,686 pupils, against 133 schools and 4,148 pupils, a gain of 10 schools, 538 pupils. Ten of the Local Fund schools, with 206 pupils, were for Mikirs and under the supervision of the American Mission, against 8 schools with 163 pupils in 1886-87. For these Mikir schools Mikir teachers are necessary, and the Secretary to the Mission notes on the difficulty, if not impossibility, of getting competent Mikir men; he has sent some Mikir boys to Mr. Burdette's school at Gauháti to be trained as teachers. I am inclined to think it would have been a better plan if he had sent these boys to the Government school at Nowgong, where there is a regular training class, and where he could have had the boys under his direct supervision. The five unaided schools are evidently applicants for Government aid, since the total receipts of these schools only came to Rs. 6, but no doubt the *gurus* also received some payment in kind. For all lower primary schools the daily attendance was 69 per cent. of the average roll number monthly.

63. *Sibságar.*—There were no changes in the upper primary schools, but the pupils fell from 456 to 421. Thirty-eight candidates appeared at the Upper Primary Examination, but only 12 passed, and 10 of these in the third division; three were awarded scholarships. The total expenditure came to Rs. 2,081, of which Rs. 711, or 34 per cent., was covered by receipts. From what I have seen, upper primary schools have not been a success in this district.

Boys' lower primaries were 188 (179 Local Fund, 7 aided, and 2 unaided), with 5,384 pupils, against 179 (176 Local Board and 3 unaided) with 5,137 pupils, a gain of 9 schools and 247 pupils. The aided schools are a new feature in this district, indeed, I may say in the Brahmaputra Valley, and the 7 are in the sub-division of Jorhát, and are wholly aided under the Reward Rules. This sub-division also shows the largest increase in the number of schools. The daily attendance for all lower primary schools was 74 per cent. of the average roll number monthly.

	1886-87.	1887-88.
Sadr	60	62
Jorhát	70	76
Golághat	49	50
Total	179	188

64. *Lakhimpur.*—In boys' upper primary schools there was a loss of one school and 9 pupils, but the loss is still greater when we look to the average monthly strength and daily attendance, which fell from 233 and 150 to 128 and 98, showing on the average a loss of 105 pupils and 52 in the daily attendance. The Deputy-Inspector passes this over with the remark that the falling off is nominal. It would, therefore, seem to me that he simply considered the roll number on the 31st March, ignoring the average conditions of the schools for the year. Three of these schools sent up 10 candidates to the Upper Primary Examination, but only 2 passed, and neither of these were eligible for scholarships. The total expenditure came to Rs. 971, of which Rs. 411, or 42 per cent., was covered by receipts.

Boys' lower primary schools were 79 (72 Local Fund and 7 unaided) with 1,883 pupils, against 81 schools (78 Local Fund and 3 unaided) with 1,949 pupils, a loss of 2 schools and 66 pupils. It is remarkable that this is the only plains district in the Province in which there has been a loss of lower primary schools and pupils, and, stranger still, that this loss should have occurred in the sadr. The Deputy-Inspector has not put forward any reasons for the falling off, and I am inclined to attribute it to general mismanagement and want of proper supervision. For all lower primary schools the daily attendance was 70 per cent. of the average roll number monthly.

	1886-87.	1887-88.
Sadr	40	40
North Lakhimpur	41	39
Total	81	79

65. *Nága Hills.*—Under the Deputy-Commissioner there were 3 boys' schools with 48 pupils, and under the American Mission 5 boys' schools with 99 pupils, total 8 schools with 147 pupils. The average number on the rolls monthly was 153, and the daily attendance 115. The Deputy-Commissioner hopes to be able to start two or three more schools in the coming year.

SECTION V.—School Education, Special.

66. Under this head come our normal schools and the Artizan School at Jorhát maintained from the Williamson Trust Fund.

Normal schools.

67. The following statement shows the particulars of the normal schools for the year under report:—

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils.			Direct expenditure.			Cost of educating each pupil	
		On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	From Government.		Total.	To Government.	Total.
					Provincial.	Local.			
					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Departmental — Sylhet	Closed.	...	...	...	376	299	675	.....	.....
Departmental — Khási Hills	1	50	38	32	4,239	...	4,260	111 8 10	112 1 8
Departmental — Kámrúp	1	43	49	46	4,197	492	4,694	95 11 1	95 12 9
Departmental — Darrang	2	50	51	53	1,324	697	2,385	39 10 0	46 12 3
Departmental — Nowgong	1	22	21	18	312	540	852	40 9 2	40 9 2
Departmental — Sibságar	1	16	17	14	1,006	441	1,447	85 1 11	85 1 11
Departmental — Lakhimpur	1	17	16	13	907	614	1,521	95 1 0	95 1 0
Total	7	198	192	166	12,361	3,083	15,834	80 7 0	82 7 6
Local Fund — Cachar	2	41	53	37	50	2,551	2,601	49 1 2	49 1 2
Local Fund — Darrang (Mangaldai.)	1	16	16	13	...	894	894	55 14 0	55 14 0
Total	3	57	69	50	50	3,445	3,495	50 10 5	50 10 5
Aided Mission... Gáro Hills	1	88	71	66	1,756	...	2,593	24 11 9	36 8 4
Unaided ..... Kámrúp	1	19	20	16	...	...	655	.....	32 12 0
Grand Total	12	362	352	298	14,167	* 6,528	22,577	58 12 8	64 2 3

* Exclusive of Rs. 9, paid as reward for training *gurus* at an unaided middle Vernacular school in Goálpára.

The only change amongst the normal schools was the abolition of that at Sylhet, and in lieu of its higher classes two pupils yearly from Sylhet are sent to either Gauháti or Dacca to be trained as pandits for middle and upper primary schools; in place of the *guru* classes, each Local Board was authorised to make arrangements to send boys to be trained as *gurus* in middle schools, the teachers being allowed a bonus for every pupil who passes the final examination. The North Sylhet Local Board was the only one that considered it necessary to specially train *gurus*, and it accordingly sent three lads to

the Giris Aided Middle Vernacular School, Sylhet, to be trained as *gurus* for the Jaintia schools. These boys have now read for one year, and should appear at the certificate examination in 1889. For schools other than those in Jaintia, the Boards obtain a sufficient supply from ex-pupils of middle and upper primary schools. With the exception of Sibságar, where the number of pupils fell from 25 to 16, the other schools show little change as regards numbers. The percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly shows a marked improvement, being 84 per cent., distributed to departmental schools 86 per cent., to Local Board schools 72 per cent., and to the aided and unaided schools combined 90 per cent. The school at Tura in this respect shows remarkable improvement, the percentages having risen from 62 to 92. The total expenditure for all schools was Rs. 22,577, against Rs. 22,880 in the preceding year. The expenditure shown against Sylhet being that for the few months the Sylhet Normal School remained open after the close of the official year 1886-87. The average cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 64-2-3, against Rs. 65-8-11 in 1886-87.

Normal School Certificate Examinations.

68. The following statement gives the results of the several Normal School Examinations for pupils in these schools, and an abstract for the preceding year:--

	Vernacular mastership certificate						Primary school-mastership certificate.				
	1st grade.		2nd grade.		3rd grade.			Number passed in			
	Number of candidates.	Number passed.	Number of candidates.	Number passed.	Number of candidates.	Number passed.	Number of candidates	First grade.	Second grade.	Total number passed in 1887-88.	Total number passed in 1886-87.
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	6	1	7	16
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cherra Punji	2	...	4	2	7	3	13	13	...	18	17
Goálpára subsidised classes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	2	1
Gauhati	10	4	7	5	11	4	9	7	...	20	24
Mangaldai	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	...	2	3
Tezpur departmental ...	...	...	...	...		...	9	5	...	5	3
Ditto Kachári	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	...	1	...
Nowgong	...	...	...	..	...	...	16	5	...	5	3
Sibságar	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3	...	3	4
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	..	...	...	3
Total ...	12	4	11	7	18	7	102	44	1	63	90

It may be broadly laid down that each school should pass at least 50 per cent. of its candidates. Judged by this standard, only the schools at Cherra, Gauháti, and the Tezpur departmental normal schools have done satisfactorily. The schools at Dibrugarh (Lakhimpur) and Mangaldai have done very badly, especially the former, also the normal school under the Gospel Mission at Tezpur for the preparation of Kachári teachers did badly; but in extenuation it has to be remembered that this school has only within the last two years attempted to work up to the departmental standard, and it is a matter of some congratulation that it has at last succeeded in passing a pupil.

Besides the pupils from normal schools, 43 *gurus* appeared at the March examination for either full certificates or certificates in the art of teaching. A special examination for certificates in the art of teaching was also held in September, at which 55 *gurus* appeared, or in all 98, and of these 28 were awarded certificates as follows. From Cachar 13 out of 38 *gurus* obtained certificates; in Sylhet one out of three; in Goálpára 3 out 13; in Nowgong 9 out of 5, and in Darrang 2 out of 32. The three *gurus* who appeared from Kámrúp failed.

Artizan School, Jorhát.

69. There were on the 31st March 20 pupils on the rolls of the Williamson Artizan School with an average monthly roll number of 22 and a daily attendance of 15, or 68 per cent. of the average strength. This I consider decidedly bad. In a technical school, where pupils receive stipends, the daily attendance should be over 80 per cent. The 20 pupils are stipendiaries as follows:—6 at Rs. 6 per month, 6 at Rs. 5, 5 at Rs. 3, and 3 at Rs. 2. In December last two pupils were sent to the mechanical apprentice class of the Sibpur Engineering College. The expenditure from the Williamson Fund for the year was as follows:—

	Rs.
Pay of Manager	1,300
Pandit	130
Stipends in Jorhát Artizan School	1,156
„ „ Sibpur Engineering College	410
Repairs of the Golághát and Jorhát Williamson School-houses by Public Works Department.	651
Total	3,647

Medical scholarships.

70. The examination for the four medical scholarships tenable at the Dacca Medical School for three years was, as usual, held in March. Ten candidates (5 from Gauháti high school, and one from Dhubri, Tezpur, Nowgong, Sibságar, and Dibrugarh high schools respectively) competed, and all qualified, except three from Gauháti and the one from Dibrugarh. One of the boys' who passed from Gauháti was awarded a scholarship, but before joining the Dacca school resigned, as the other boy from Gauháti school stood last on the list, the four scholarships were awarded to the boys from Dhubri, Tezpur, Nowgong, and Sibságar respectively.

Mechanical apprentice scholarships.

71. The mechanical apprentice scholarships are 8 in number, four of Rs. 10 each being reserved for the Brahmaputra Valley and four of Rs. 7 each for the Surma Valley. These scholarships are tenable in the mechanical apprentice class of the Sibpur Engineering College, and are awarded after the result of the Entrance Examination of that college is known. The examination was held in January, and for Assam, Dibrugarh, Gauháti, Sylhet, and Cachar were made centres. The following shows the award of scholarships:—

Brahmaputra Valley Scholarships, Rs. 10 per mensem.

No.
1. Káli Náth Dás.
2. Suryya Dhar Rájkhawá.
3. Ratna Náth Baruá.
4. Abu Bakar Siddik.

Surma Valley Scholarships, Rs. 7 per mensem.

1. Akshay Kumár De.

SECTION VI.—Female Education.

Comparison of girls' schools for the past two years.

72. The changes that occurred in the girls' schools during the year are shown below:—

	1886-87.			1887-88.		
	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.	Schools.	Pupils.	Average number to each school.
Aided Middle Vernacular	4	123	30	2	72	36
Local Fund Upper Primary	1	26	26	.....	.....	.....
Aided ditto ditto	1	24	24	.....	.....	.....
Lower Primary Departmental	1	29	29	1	25	25
Local Fund and Municipal	104	1,609	15	112	1,706	15
Aided	47	1,025	21	42	1,074	25
Unaided	12	182	15	47	843	18
Total	170	3,018	17	204	3,720	18

There has thus been a gain of 34 schools and 702 pupils, due to Local Fund and unaided primary schools.

District statistics of girls' schools.

73. The following statement gives the distribution of girls' schools and the principal details :—

I. Secondary (Middle Vernacular) Schools for Females.

District.	Number of institutions.	Number of pupils			Expenditure.				Cost of educating each pupil.		
		On rolls on 31st March.	Average number on rolls monthly.	Average daily attendance.	From the State. Provincial.	From the State. Local.	Other sources.	Total.	To Government.	To the public.	Total.
						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Aided—											
Goálpára	1	43	25	18	..	90	102	192	3 9 7	4 1 3	7 10 10
Lakhimpur.....	1	29	28	20	...	360	°274	634	12 13 9	9 12 7	22 10 4
Total aided middle Vernacular schools.	2	72	53	38	...	450	376	826	8 7 10	7 1 6	15 9 4

II. Lower Primary Schools for Females.

DEPARTMENTAL—											
Darrang	1	25	30	12	66	.....	.. ...	66	2 3 2	.....	2 3 2
Total Departmental schools	1	25	30	12	66	.....	.....	66	2 3 2	.....	2 3 2
LOCAL FUND AND MUNICIPAL—											
Cachar	1	17	14	11	...	.....	°148	148	.....	10 9 2	10 9 2
Sylhet	73	960	952	748	...	2,795	40	2,835	2 15 0	0 0 8	2 15 8
Goálpára	1	16	15	8	...	47	27	74	3 2 2	1 12 10	4 15 0
Kámrúp	11	235	225	132	...	328	°433	761	1 7 4	1 14 9	3 6 1
Darrang	6	85	92	56	...	388	23	411	4 3 6	0 4 0	4 7 6
Nowgong	9	237	225	164	...	437	180	617	1 15 1	0 12 10	2 11 11
Sibságar	10	141	143	106	...	482	°114	596	3 5 11	0 12 9	4 2 8
Lakhimpur.....	1	15	16	10	..	127	13	140	7 15 0	0 13 0	8 12 0
Total Local and Municipal schools.	112	1,706	1,682	1,235	...	4,604	978	5,582	2 11 10	0 9 4	3 5 2
AIDED—											
Sylhet	23	546	503	379	...	307	°552	859	0 9 9	1 1 7	1 11 4
Khási Hills.....	16	441	459	303	697	.....	°2,024	2,721	1 8 4	4 6 7	5 14 11
Goálpára	1	30	44	21	...	144	84	228	3 4 4	1 4 7	5 2 11
Sibságar	1	46	40	24	...	300	°340	640	7 8 0	8 8 0	16 0 0
Nága Hills	1	11	7	5	...	.....	25	25	... ...	3 9 2	3 9 2
Total Aided Schools.	42	1,074	1,053	732	697	751	3,025	4,473	1 6 0	2 14 0	4 4 0
Ditto of Departmental, Local, and aided schools.	155	2,805	2,765	1,979	763	5,355	4,003	10,121	2 3 5	1 7 2	3 10 7
Ditto ditto of 1886-87.	152	2,663	2,544	1,804	685	5,744	2,056	8,485	2 8 5	0 12 11	3 5 4
UNAIDED—											
Sylhet	43	759	712	618	...	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Gáro Hills	1	30	26	24	...	.....	830	830	.....	31 14 9	31 14 9
Goálpára	1	17	17	15	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nowgong	1	21	20	15	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sibságar	1	16	13	11	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total unaided schools.	47	843	788	683	...	.....	831	831	.....	1 0 10	1 0 10
Grand Total Departmental, Local, Aided and Unaided Lower Primary schools.	202	†3,648	3,553	2,662	763	5,355	4,834	10,952	1 11 7	1 5 9	3 1 4
Ditto ditto of 1886-87.	164	‡2,845	2,719	1,956	685	5,744	2,178	8,607	2 8 0	0 13 7	3 5 7

° Municipal contribution Lakhim pur, 213; Cachar, 148; Sylhet, 860; Khási Hills, 210; Kamrúp, 429; Sibságar 114+180=294.
† 3,114 girls and 534 boys.
‡ 2,538 girls and 307 boys.

The loss of two girls' middle schools is thus accounted for. The middle school at Shillong and the two in Sibságar, *viz*, the Sibságar and Golághát middle girls' schools, have been transferred to the list of lower primary schools, as it was a misnomer calling them middle, when not a single one of the girls had passed the lower primary stage; and the upper primary school at Dhubri was raised to a middle school, but there was only one girl in it above the lower primary stage. The upper primary girls' schools have disappeared by the raising of the status of the Dhubri school, and the transfer of the Tezpur school to the list of lower primaries.

Girls' lower primary schools were 202 with 3,648 pupils, against 161, with 2,845 pupils, a gain of 38 schools and 803 pupils. The increase was distributed over all districts except Lakhimpur and Goálpára. In the latter district the Sub-Inspector of Schools, Goálpára, says that "the fact is because the guardians do not like to educate their girls with boys." I do not lay much, or indeed any, weight to this explanation, for from my personal experience I feel sure that this is not the case, except in rare instances; that guardians and parents are, as a rule, indifferent whether their girls attend a boys' school or a girls' school. I think Mr. Gait's remarks on the Darrang report comes nearer to the facts of the case, it is—

"It is very difficult in the mufassal to get parents to educate their girls. They are too useful in the house, and parents think they will forget and despise ordinary household duties if they learn how to read and write. Girls thus qualified are said also to become '*dushta*,' which I imagine means that they are less amenable to discipline and less likely to submit to their parents' choice of husbands. That this is the case I know from one or two instances that have come under my personal observation."

The most striking feature in the above return is the large increase of unaided girls' schools in Sylhet, which were 43 with 759 pupils, against 11 with 154 pupils in 1886-87, and that these 43 schools only received Re. 1 towards their support. I regret that absolutely no information regarding the circumstances of these schools has been given in the district report; but from what I saw while on tour in Sylhet, my impression is that the majority of these schools have been started by native gentlemen in their own *Baris* for the education of their girls, and that the teachers get no money payment, but are fed and lodged by them, the girls from the neighbouring houses being allowed to attend. Another striking point is the unaided girls' school in the Gáro Hills at Tura, which cost Rs. 830. This amount has been paid by the American Mission. The Secretary dismisses the school with the following remark:—

"The station girls' school has been conducted about the same as last year. Miss Boid has now the assistance of this mission and two native teachers."

For all girls' primary schools the daily attendance was 75 per cent. of the average roll number monthly, a fairly good attendance. The total expenditure came to Rs. 10,952, made up as follows:—From Provincial Rs. 763, from Local Funds Rs. 5,355, from municipal funds Rs. 1,654, from the several Mission bodies Rs. 2,491, and from fees and subscriptions from natives and officials Rs. 689. The people of Assam, including officials, therefore only paid 6·3 per cent. of the total expenditure on girls' lower primary schools.

Number of girls in boys' schools and total number of girls at school.

74. The following statement contrasts the number of girls reading in boys' schools with that for last year:—

	1886-87.	1887-78.
Cachar	152	105
Sylhet	760	1,010
Khási and Jaintia Hills	610	680
Gáro Hills	16	52
Goálpára	173	126
Kámrúp	331	367
Darrang	15	10
Nowgong	87	117
Sibságar	282	266
Lakhimpur	30	47
Nága Hills	Not received.	24
Total	2,462	2,804

There were thus more girls reading in boys' schools in all districts except Cachar, Goálpára, Darrang, and Sibságar, the total increase being 342. If to the girls in boys' schools, 2,804, we add 3,114 girls in girls' schools, the total becomes 5,918 girls under instruction, against 5,173 in the preceding year, a net gain of 745 girls.

Scholarship examination for all girls' schools.

75. The one girl in the middle stage of instruction in the Dhubri Girls' School successfully passed the Middle Vernacular Examination; but as she had not joined the school within the prescribed period, was ineligible for a scholarship. The lower primary girls' school at Nowgong sent up

a girl to the Upper Primary Examination She passed and obtained an upper primary scholarship. The lower primary girls' school in North Lakhimpur also sent up two girls to the Upper Primary Examination: both these passed, but did not stand high enough for scholarships. The result of the Lower Primary Examination for girls' lower primary schools and award of scholarship is shown in the following table:—

District.	Number of primary schools sending candidates.	Number of candidates who competed.	Number of schools from which candidates passed.	Number of candidates who were passed.				
				In the first division.	In the second division.	In the third division.	Total.	Number of scholarships awarded.
Khási and Jaintia Hills	1	12	1	2	...	...	2	1
Kámrúp	1	4	1	...	1	...	1	.....
Nowgong	1	3	.....	...	...	...	...	.....
Lakhimpur	1	2	.....	...	...	...	...	.....
Total.....	4	21	2	2	1	...	3	1

Comparing with the similar table in paragraph 79 of last year's report, we find that the competing girls' schools fell from 12 to 4, the candidates from 35 to 21, the successful candidates from 21 to 3, and the number of scholarships from 7 to 1.

Classification of pupils in girls' schools according to religion.

76. Classified according to religion, the pupils (boys and girls) in girls' schools stood as follows:—

	Number on rolls on 31st March.	Hindus.		Muhammadans.		Others.	
		Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Girls—							
Middle Schools.....	72	67	93·05	2	2·78	3	4·17
Primary „	3,648	2,382	65·30	656	17·98	610	16·72
Total	3,720	2,449	65·83	658	17·69	613	16·48

The important point in the above is the relative increase of Muhammadan girls to the number attending these schools, the figure being 17·69 per cent, against 11·03 for the year 1886-87.

Stage of instruction of pupils in girls' schools.

77. General Table V. gives the full details under this head, so it is only here necessary to say that of the 72 pupils in girls' middle schools only one was in the middle stage, 7 in the upper primary stage, and the remaining 64 were in the lower primary stage. In lower primary schools 28 girls, out of 3,648 pupils, of whom 534 were boys, had passed the lower primary stage; the remainder were in the lower primary stage.

Sylhet Union

78. The subjoined account of the Sylhet Union was furnished by the Deputy-Inspector, Sylhet:—

"The Union's annual examination was, as usual, held in the beginning of the year under report. 600 candidates passed out of 684 who actually competed. The following table shows the details of the last two examinations:—

Year.	Number of applicants for examination.	Number that competed.	Number passed in				Number passed from	
			1st division.	2nd division.	3rd division.	Total.	Zenana.	Schools.
1886-87 ...	763	415	220	119	29	360	130	238
1887-88 ...	1,125	684	321	204	72	600	175	425

"Out of the successful candidates, 438 were Hindus, 52 Musalmans, and 15 Manipuris. Nothing is known regarding the rest. The result of the examination appears to have been good."

The following is an abstract of the receipts and expenditure of the Union:—

Receipts.	Rs.	*Disbursements.*	Rs.
Subscriptions	208	Prizes.....	400
Donations	287	Miscellaneous	229
Grant by Local Boards	180		
Other items	244		
Total	919		629

SECTION VII.—Education of Special Classes.

(*a*) *European and Eurasian.*

79. The Shillong Girls' School was doing very little good in comparison to its cost and as a private school was started by Miss Jones it was determined to close the girls' school at the end of the school term. The school was accordingly closed on the 30th November. The following statement shows its receipts and expenditure for the period it was at work:—

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	Amount.	Total.		Amount.	Total.
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
Balance in hand on 1st April 1887.	.....	244 0 10	Establishment charges	2,827 8 0	.....
			Boarding charges.....	1,291 12 6	.....
Government grant for 1887-88.	4,000 0 0	.....	Medical	383 5 4	.....
			Municipal Tax .....,	90 0 0	.....
Fees	1,539 8 0		Miscellaneous	.....	4,592 9 10
		5,539 8 0	Balance	.....	1,190 15 0
Total	.....	5,783 8 10	Total	.....	5,783 8 10

Soon after the closing of the school Miss Jones applied for a grant-in-aid for her school, and permission to use the girls' school building and furniture. A grant of Rs. 70 per month was sanctioned from the 1st March 1888, and she was allowed the use of the school-house and furniture at a nominal rent of Rs. 50 per month, the terms to be reconsidered after a year. She has now, in July, 29 pupils, and the prospects of the school seem better than they did for some years. As Miss Jones's school formally opened on the 1st of March, the same date as the abolished school would have re-opened, I have included her school for the one month with the statistics of the abolished school in the following comparative statement, and also in the general returns of the prescribed statements:—

School		Roll number on 31st March.	Average roll number monthly.	Average daily attendance	Total expenditure				Cost of educating each pupil.		
					Provincial	Fees	Other sources.	Total.	To the State.	Fees and other sources.	Total.
					Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A P.	Rs A. P.
Shillong Girls	1887-78.	18†	9	8	3,115*	1,540	244‡	4,899*	346 1 9	198 3 7	544 5 4
	1886-87	13	12	10	3,863	2,969	...	6,832	321 14 8	247 6 8	569 5 4

* Includes Rs 306 spent by Public Works Department on repairs to the school building
† Girls 10 and boys 8
‡ Balance at credit from preceding year

(*b*) *Muhammadan Education.*

80. The following table shows the number and percentage of Muhammadan pupils in different classes of schools:—

Public Institutions.	Total number of pupils.	Number of Muhammadans.	Percentage of Muhammadans.
High Schools	3,273	433	13·23
Middle English schools	3,886	674	17·34
„ Vernacular „	3,388	552	16 29
Upper Primary „	4,213	558	13·24
Lower Primary „	55,254	9,727	17·60
Normal and other special schools	524	90	17·18
Total	70,538	12,034	17 06
Private Institutions—			
Advanced	2,139	525	24·54
Elementary	3,011	2,352	78·11
Total	5,150	2,877	55·86
Grand Total	75,688	14,911	19·70
Grand Total for preceding year	69,802	12,956	18·56

81. The following are some of the special measures taken for the encouragement of Muhammadan education:—

(1) For the Surma Valley two junior scholarships of Rs. 15 per mensem are reserved for Muhammadan boys who fail to obtain one of the 8 open scholarships, and senior scholarships of the same amount will be awarded to holders of these junior scholarships, provided they pass the First Arts examination within two years.

(2) In all departmental high schools a Maulvi is appointed when the number of Muhammadans attending reaches 30.

(3) Special rules have been framed for aiding *maktabs* under the system of payments by results.

(4) From the Mohsin Fund we are allowed Rs. 800 per annum to be spent on Muhammadan Education in the Sylhet Government High School. On the 31st March there were 81 Muhammadan boys attending this school. Of these 7 received stipends of Rs. 3 per month, and 23 received stipends equal to two-thirds of their fees. The following shows the expenditure from the Mohsin Fund for the year under report:—

	Rs.
Part pay of Maulvis	257
Scholarships at Rs. 3	219
Two-thirds' schooling-fees	253
Prizes	8
Total... ...	737

Phulbari Madrasa, Sylhet.

82. The Deputy-Inspector of Sylhet gives the following account of the Phulbari Madrasa:—

"The Phulbari Endowed Madrasa had on its rolls on the 31st March last 80 pupils; with an average number on the rolls monthly of 60 and daily average attendance 47. The instruction imparted consists, as usual, of Arabic and Persian, nothing whatever useful for the ordinary purposes of life being taught. The total cost of the Madrasa came to Rs. 332, namely, Rs. 81 from fees collected from the pupils, and Rs. 251 from the rents of the endowment, being the total collections, minus charges for management. There was much litigation about the lands assigned for the maintenance of the Madrasa, and as collections were not sufficient to pay the establishment and also appoint an additional teacher to teach Bengali and arithmetic to its pupils, the necessity of which I succeeded in imposing on the minds of both the pupils and the teachers, as also on the Naib Manager, the latter took my advice and for some time levied some fees from the pupils. He has, however, discontinued the practice now, on the plea of the year being hard and the people in distress."

I visited this Madrasa in the end of March, and found 53 present out of 79 on the rolls. Of the 53 boys, or rather young men, present, 51 had come from distant parts of Sylhet, and the other two from the Phulbari village. These 51 boys received board and lodging free from the neighbours. Each sub-division of Sylhet, except Habiganj, was well represented. The Muhammadans of Habiganj seem to desire a somewhat more liberal education than that obtainable at the Phulbari Madrassa.

SECTION VIII.—Private Schools.

83. The following statement includes all private schools that have submitted returns:— District statistics of private schools.

District.	Advanced teaching.						Elementary, teaching a Vernacular only or mainly.								Other schools not conforming to departmental standard.		Total.	
	Arabic or Persian.		Sanskrit *tols*.		Any other Oriental classic.		Teaching a Vernacular only or mainly.				Elementary *tols*.		Elementary *maktabs*.					
							Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.			
	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.	Schools.	Pupils.
Cachar	2	156	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	62	..	..	..	..	5	218
Sylhet	19	284	36	709	..	..	3	39	..	..	..	..	110	2,112	5	95	..	..	173	3,239
Goálpára	..	..	1	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	24
Kámrup	..	..	39	856	..	..	9	142	..	..	..	..	2	36	..	..	3	47	53	1,081
Nowgong	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	13
Sibságar	4	85	1	25	..	..	14	299	..	..	..	..	1	30	..	..	3	111	23	550
Lakhimpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	14	..	..	..	..	1	11	..	..	..	..	2	25
Total	25	525	77	1,614	..	..	27	494	1	13	..	..	117	2,251	5	95	6	158	258	5,150

Comparing this with the similar statement in paragraph 87 of last year's report, we find an increase of 13 schools and 324 pupils. In Cachar, the five schools were in Hailákándi sub-division. The Sub-Inspector of the sadr reports that there were also five *maktabs* in the sadr, but that they did not furnish returns. In Sylhet, besides the 173 schools that submitted returns, there were many more at work off and on through the year, and it is quite a matter of chance whether such schools happen to be at work in March or no. For the first time one *maktab* competed for rewards, sending up 6 candidates, of whom 5 passed and earned Rs. 58 as a reward for the school, and one boy got a prize of Rs. 7. Seven *tols* also competed, sending up 18 candidates, who earned Rs. 200 as rewards for these schools, two of the successful candidates also received prizes of Rs. 7 each. The one *tol* in Goálpára was maintained by the Gauripur estate at a cost of Rs. 1,301. In Kámrúp 9 of the 39 *tols* competed at the Central Examination held at Gauháti, sending up 20 candidates. Only two of these passed, and they earned Rs. 17 as rewards for the two schools from which they appeared. They also obtained prizes, but to what amount the district report does not state. The total expenditure, however, came to Rs. 90. Concerning the 9 schools teaching a Vernacular only or mainly, the Deputy-Inspector writes:—

"Some of these are expectant schools, and are working with the hope of getting aid from Government."

This being the case, these schools should have been classed as unaided lower primary, not *private* schools.

The three schools classified as "Others," were 2 *ganok* schools, where horoscope-making is taught, and the third a Marwári school at Gauháti, where sons of Marwári merchants learn arithenetic. The Deputy-Inspector of Nowgong reports that there are a large number of *tols* and *maktabs* in the district; but they do not care to submit statistics. The Deputy-Inspector of Lakhimpur who was also in charge of the district of Sibságar for a great part of the year, in his report gives absolutely no information about private schools, except that he states the bare fact of there being so many schools in existence, but from his section on Middle Schools I am led to infer thatunder the head "Teaching a vernacular only or mainly" he has included three middle schools that in the returns for 1886-87 were classified as unaided middle schools.

SECTION IX.—Preparation and Distribution of Text-books.

Text Book Committee, Nowgong.

84. On the recommendation of the Educational Conference, the Text-book Committee, Nowgong, was revived, and several Assamese manuscripts were sent for examination towards the close of the year.

Rewards given.

85. The following shows the payments that were made during the year:—

Rewards.

Name of author.	Book.	Amount. Rs.
Babu Hem Chandra Barua	Translation of "Way to Health" in Assamese ...	250
	Total	250
	Sale Guarantees.	
Babu Purnananda Bharali	Physical Geography, by Isananda Bharali.....	134
	Grand Total	384

* This does not include Rs. 100 paid for price of 200 copies of "Sylhet Darpan," nor Rs. 2,000 paid as a reward to Mr. Needham, Lakhimpur, for his philological works. The latter amount was sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

Revised list of Assamese text-books.

86. The following is the revised list of Assamese text-books examined and approved by the Nowgong Text-book Committee. Books out of print, and those manuscripts which have not been published up to date, have been struck off the list. During the year, as the work of the Text-book Committee was suspended, no books were added to the list:—

LITERATURE.

	Name of book.	Author's name.	Where procurable.
1.	Laraputhi	Gunábhi Rám Baruá.....	Nowgong.
2.	Hitasádhiká.....	Padmábati Devi.....	Ditto.
3.	Assamia Larámitra.....	Gunábhi Rám Baruá.....	Ditto.
4.	Padyamálá	Padmaháns Gosvami	Ditto.
5.	Kávya Kusum	Gunabhi Rám Baruá.....	Ditto.
6.	Sikshá Sár	Padmaháns Gosvami.....	Ditto.
7.	Páthmála.....	Hem Chandra Barua	Gauháti.
8.	Hitakatha, Parts I. and II...	Purna Kanta Sarma	Dibrugarh.
9.	Uijupáth	Baladev Mahanta	Nowgong.
10.	Jnánánkur	Chandra Sekhar Baruá.....	North Gauháti.
11.	Nitikatha.....	Jajneshar Sarmá	Sibságar.
12.	Nitisár.....	Syad Taibulla.....	Gauháti.
13.	Jnánánkur, Parts I. and II.	Nara Náth Mahanta	Nowgong.
14.	Larábodh.....	Lambodar Baré.....	Kohima.
15.	Kabitámálá, Parts I. and II.	Bholá Náth Dás	Sibságar.
16.	Hitakathá	Jajneswar Sarmá	Ditto.
17.	Hitopades	Tulsi Rám Bez Baruá	Nowgong.
18.	Chintá Tarangini, Parts I. and II.	Bholá Náth Dás	Sibságar.
19.	Jnánánkur	Purná Kánta Sarma..... ...	Dibrugarh.
20.	Nitikathá.....	Bishnu Priyá Devi	Nowgong.
21.	Pratham Sikshá	Tulsi Rám Baruá	Ditto.
22.	Dvitiya Sikshá	Ditto	Ditto.
23.	Larápáth, Part III.	Jay Chandra Chakravarti	Gauháti.
24.	Jnanamanjuri	Revánanda Pandit	Sibságar.

BIOGRAPHY.

1.	Biography of the late Ananda Rám Dhekial Phukan.	Gunabhi Rám Baruá	Ditto.
2.	Sudharmar Upákhyan	Srimati Padmábati Devi Phukanani.	Nowgong.

PRIMER.

1.	Larádarsak	Munshi Yár Muhammad.....	Sibságar.
2.	Larápáth, Parts I. and II	Jay Chandra Chakravarti	Gauháti.
3.	Lará Nijaputhi	Brajapathi Banerji	Ditto.
4.	Barnabodh, Parts I. and II.	Madhu Rám Dás...	Nowgong.
5.	Third Book of Reading	Káli Rám Baruá	Gauháti.

GRAMMAR.

1.	Assamese Grammar	Hem Chandra Baruá	Ditto.
2.	Assamia ditto	Dina Bandhu Tarkálankár	Tezpur.
3.	„ Larár Vyakaran ...	Hem Chandra Barua	Gauháti.
4.	Assamese Grammar	Dharmesvar Gosvámi	Nowgong.
5.	Asubodh Vyakaran	Náráyan Sarmá Vidyabhusan.....	Gauháti.

ARITHMETIC.

1.	Mental Arithmetic, Parts I. and II.	Mahim Chandra Chakravarti	Tezpur.
2.	Ganit Sástra	Purnánanda Sen	Nowgong.
3.	Byabahárik Maukhik Ganana.	Rajani Kánta Chakravarti	Barpeta.
4.	Karyya Sikshá	Káli Rám Baruá.....	Gauháti.
5.	Ganan Pustak	Sakhawat Ali	Ditto.
6.	Ankapáth	Dibakar Sarmá	Sibságar.

HISTORY.

1.	Assám Buranji	Gunábhi Rám Baruá	Nowgong.
2.	History of India, Parts I. and II.	Dharmesvar Gosvami	Ditto.

GEOGRAPHY.

1.	Geography for Assamese Children.	Gunábhi Rám Baruá.....	Nowgong.
2.	Physical Geography	Lambodar Datta.....	Sibságar.
3.	Ditto	Isananda Bharáli	Ditto.
4.	Geography of Assam.....	Munshi Hásmat Ullá	Goálpára.

GEOMETRY.

1.	Geometry.....	Sakhawat Ali...	Gauháti.
2.	Ditto	Jajnesvar Sarmá	Sibságar

MENSURATION AND SURVEYING.

1.	Parimiti	Hah Rám Dás Medhi	Gauháti.
2.	Mensuration and surveying..	Bholá Náth Dás.....	Sibságar.
3.	Bhumiparimán, or Treatise on Simple Mensuration in Assamese	Káli Rám Baruá	Gauháti.
4.	Bhumiparimán	Brajapati Banerji	Ditto.
5.	Saral Bhumiparimán	Prabhát Chandra Sarasvati	Ditto.

SCIENCE.

1.	Padárthavidya	Munshi Sakhawat Ali...	Gauháti.
2.	Translation of Dr. Cunningham's Sanitary Primer.	.....	Office, Inspector of Schools, Assam, Shillong.
3.	Bastu Sikshá	Lakshmi Rám Bara	Gauháti.
4.	Catechism of Dr. Cuningham's Sanitary Primer.	Bapu Rám Sarma	Ditto.
5.	Svasthyabidhi.....	Nara Náth Mahanta	Nowgong.
6.	Ratna Mani	Rud Ram Bardalai.....	.....

J. WILLSON,

Inspector of Schools, Assam.

PRESCRIBED STATEMENTS.

EDUCATION GENERAL TABLE I.

Abstract Return of Schools and Scholars in the Province of Assam at the end of the official year 1887-88.

(For details, *see* General Table III.)

Area and population.				Public institutions.					Private institutions.			
				School Education, General.		School Education, Special.						
Total area in square miles.	Number of towns* and villages.	Population.		Secondary schools.	Primary schools.	Training schools.	All other special schools.	Total of public institutions.	Advanced.	Elementary.	Grand Total.	Percentage of
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Institutions — For males ...	106‡	1,870	12	5	1,993	102	150	2,245	Institutions to No. of towns and villages: 10·02
			Institutions — For females.	2	202	.....	1	205	.....	6	211	Institutions to No. of towns and villages: ·94
			Total ...	108	2,072	12	6	2,198	102	156	2,456	10·96
			Scholars — Males ...	10,342‡	53,639	349	152	64,482	2,139	2,886	69,507	Male scholars to male population of school-going age. † 18·51
			Scholars — Females ...	149	5,828	13	10	6,000	.....	125	6,125	Female scholars to female population of school-going age. † 1·72
			Total ...	10,491	59,467	362	162	70,482	2,139	3,011	75,632	10·33
Square miles.. 46,341	Towns... 14	Males ... 2,503,703										
	Villages 22,396	Females .. 2,377,723										
	Total ... 22,410	Total ... 4,881,426										

* A town contains 5,000 inhabitants or upwards. A village contains less than 5,000 inhabitants. A municipality, whatever its population, should be entered as a town.
† The population of school-going age is taken at 15 per cent. of the whole population.
‡ Exclusive of Manipur School, with 86 pupils.

EDUCATION GENERAL TABLE II.

Abstract Return of Expenditure on Public Instruction in the Province of Assam for the official year 1887-88.

(For details *see* General Table IV.)

	Total direct expenditure on public instruction.§						Total indirect expenditure on public instruction.§								
	School Education, General.		School Education, Special.			Total.	University.	Direction.	Inspection.	Scholarships.	Buildings.	Special grants for furniture and apparatus.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Total expenditure on public instruction.
	Secondary schools.	Primary schools.	Training schools.	European and Eurasian schools.	All other special schools.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1. Institutions ... For males	1,51,128	1,52,198	22,586	.....	4,021	3,29,933	1,483	18,929	34,529	45,271	8,350	2,651	11,705	1,22,918	4,69,528‖
For females	826	10,952	.....	4,899	.....	16,677									
Total	‖1,51,954	1,63,150	22,586	4,899	4,021	‖3,46,610	1,483	18,929	34,529	45,271	8,350	2,651	11,705	1,22,918	4,69,528‖
2. (*a*) Percentages* of Provincial Expenditure included in columns 2—16 to total Provincial Expenditure on public instruction.	24·31	5·73	9·03	1·99	.....	41·06	.....	11·28	14·73	21·79	3·86	1·15	6·13	58·94	100
(*b*) Percentages* of Local Fund Expenditure included in columns 2—16 to total Local Fund Expenditure on public instruction.	14·57	65·56	4·28	.....	.....	84·41	.....	.....	7·47	6·41	·43	·19	1·09	15·59	100
(*c*) Percentages* of Municipal Expenditure included in columns 2—16 to total Municipal Expenditure on public instruction.	35·26	50·16	.....	.....	7·93	93·35	.....	.....	.....	.....	5·66	·99	.....	6·65	100
(*d*) Percentages of total expenditure in columns 2—16 to total expenditure on public instruction.	32·36	34·75	4·81	1·04	·86	73·82	·32	4·03	7·35	9·64	1·78	·57	2·49	26·18	100
3. Average annual cost† of educating each pupil in—	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.									
Departmental institutions. Cost to Provincial Revenues	10 3 4	4 4 6	64 6 1	346 1 9	.....	12 13 9									
Cost to Local and Municipal Funds	0 3 7	.....	16 0 11	.....	.....	0 14 8									
Total cost	20 12 0	4 4 6	82 7 6	544 5 4	117 8 9	23 14 6									
Local Fund schools‡ Cost to Provincial Revenues	.....	.....	0 11 7	.....	.....	0 11 7									
Cost to Local Funds	.....	2 5 0	49 14 10	.....	.....	2 6 5									
Total cost	.....	2 12 8	50 10 5	.....	13 1 11	2 14 3									

‖ Exclusive of Rs. 881 for Manipur Middle English School.

* The percentages required for 2(*a*), 2(*b*), 2(*c*), are to be calculated from the figures given in columns 6*a*, 6*b*, 6*c*, respectively, of General Table IV.

† The annual cost is calculated on the *direct* expenditure only. The average cost of educating each pupil is obtained by dividing the direct expenditure by the average number on the rolls monthly during the year.

‡ The average cost of each pupil in Local Fund and Municipal Schools is to be obtained from the figures given in General Table VII.

§ Fractions of a rupee should be omitted, except in the columns showing the average annual cost of educating each pupil.

EDUCATION GENERAL TABLE II.—(*Concluded.*)

	Total direct expenditure on public instruction.						Total indirect expenditure on public instruction.								
	School Education, General.		School Education, special.			Total.	University.	Direction.	Inspection.	Scholarships.	Buildings.	Special grants for furniture and apparatus.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Total expenditure on public instruction.
	Secondary schools.	Primary schools.	Training schools.	European and Eurasian schools.	All other special schools.										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.									
Aided institutions — Cost to Provincial Revenues	.....	0 7 11	24 11 9	.....	.....	0 7 5									
Aided institutions — Cost to Local and Municipal Funds	4 14 0	1 2 9	.....	.....	.....	2 0 9									
Aided institutions — Total cost	12 5 0	3 13 3	36 8 4	.....	.....	5 14 10									
Unaided institutions, Total cost	11 7 0	0 12 4	33 3 2	.....	13 2 11	3 13 10									
All institutions — Cost to Provincial Revenues	3 13 9	0 2 7	40 3 11	346 1 9	.....	0 15 8									
All institutions — Cost to Local and Municipal Funds	2 7 2	1 13 9	18 9 2	.....	3 4 11	2 0 8									
All institutions — Total cost	15 6 1	2 15 2	64 2 8	544 5 4	30 11 1	5 4 5									

EDUCATION GENERAL TABLE III.

Return of Schools and Scholars in the Province of Assam for the official year 1887-88.

Class of Institutions.	Public Institutions.																Grand total of public institutions.	Grand total of scholars on the 31st of March.	Number of scholars on the 31st of March learning		
	Under Public Management.								Under Private Management.												
	Maintained by the Department.				Maintained by Local Fund and Municipal Boards.				Aided by the Department or by Local Fund or Municipal Boards.				Unaided.						English.	A classical language.	A vernacular language.
	Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on 31st March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
SECONDARY EDUCATION																					
HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS.																					
For boys.																					
School Education, General — High School ..... English	11	2,252	2,200	1,796	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	543	538	439	2	478	471	366	17	3,273	3,268	1,876	1,847
Middle „ ..... English	3	287	225	180	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	2,624*	2,491	1,874	11	969	934	642	44*	5,530*	1,990	144	3,900
Middle „ ..... Vernacular	15	1,411	1,313	1,097	.....	.....	.....	.....	30	1,905	1,745	1,389	....	....	....	....	45	3,316	.....	98	3,218
For girls.																					
Middle „ ..... Vernacular	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	72	53	38	....	....	....	....	2	72	.....	.....	72
Total	29	3,900	3,738	3,073	.....	.....	.....	.....	66*	5,144*	4,737	3,740	13	1,447	1,405	1,008	108*	10,491*	5,264	1,758	9,019
PRIMARY EDUCATION.																					
PRIMARY SCHOOLS.																					
For boys ..... Upper Primary	....	....	....	....	13	559	520	395	89	3,464	3,193	2,450	4	190	136	124	106	4,213	.....	.....	4,213
For boys ..... Lower ditto	24	289	285	198	1,224	25,877	23,507	24,159	294	12,006	11,201	8,863	122	3,434	2,930	2,269	1,764	51,606	304	1,439	51,466
For girls ..... Lower ditto	1	25	30	12	112	1,706	1,682	1,238	42	1,074	1,053	732	47	843	788	633	202	3,648	107	89	3,642
Total	25	314	315	210	1,349	28,142	25,709	25,789	525	16,544	15,447	11,745	173	4,467	3,854	3,176	2,072	59,467	411	1,528	59,322
Schools for Special Instruction.																					
School Education, Special — Training Schools for Masters	7	196	192	166	3	57	69	50	1	38	71	68	1	19	20	16	12	362	75	.....	300
Industrial Schools	1	20	23	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	20	....	.....	20
European and Eurasian Schools	1	18	9	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	18	18	.....	.....
Law Schools	....	....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	1	8	8	7	1	8	8	.....	.....
Other Schools	....	....	....	....	2	36	33	26	.....	.....	....	....	1	80	66	47	3	116	....	80	36
Total	9	234	223	193	5	93	102	75	1	38	71	68	3	107	94	70	18	524	101	80	356
Total of Schools of Public Instruction	63	4,450	4,276	3,476	1,354	28,235	25,811	25,864	592*	21,776*	20,255	15,551	189	6,021	5,353	4,254	2,198*	70,482*	5,776	3,366	68,697
Private Institutions .. 1. Advanced Teaching— (a) Arabic or Persian																	25	593	.....	529	12
(b) Sanskrit																	77	1,614	.....	1,614	.....
2 Elementary teaching .. (a) Teaching a Vernacular only or mainly ..... For boys																	27	494	.....	.....	494
„ girls																	1	13	.....	.....	13
(b) Elementary maktabs ..... For boys																	117	2,251	.....	2,251	.....
„ girls																	5	95	.....	95	.....
3. Other schools not conforming to departmental standards ..... For boys																	6	158	106	.....	68
Total																	258	5,150	106	4,489	607
Grand Total																	2,456*	75,632*	5,882	7,848	69,304

* Exclusive of Manipur School with 56 pupils.

EDUCATION GENERAL TABLE III.—(*Concluded.*)

Class of Institutions.	Classification of Scholars on the 31st of March according to race or creed.																																Remarks.
	Europeans and Eurasians.	Native Christians.	Hindús.	Mahammadans.	Kukis.	Mikirs.	Nepalese.	Nágas.	Manipuris.	Kacharis.	Khásis.	Tipperahs.	Rabhas.	Gáros.	Madahis.	Saraniá.	Lalungs.	Miris.	Khámptis.	Singphos.	Meches.	Brahmos.	Jains.	Jaintias.	Hajong.	Mismis.	Baraí.	Paklals.	Duanias.	Deuris.	Others.	
	23a	23b	23c	23d	23e	23f	23g	23h	23i	23j	23k	23l	23m	23n	23o	23p	23q	23r	23s	23t	23u	23v	23w	23x	23y	23z	23a	23b	23c	23d	23e	23f	24
SECONDARY EDUCATION.																																	
HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS.																																	
For boys.																																	
School Education, General. — High Schools — English	..	47	2,720	433	1	4	..	10	6	7	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	
Middle „ — English	8	217	2,549	651	..	..	..	..	17	12	332	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	74 girls.
Middle „ — Vernacular	1	13	2,676	550	..	8	..	..	14	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	3 do.
For girls.																																	
Middle „ — Vernacular	2	..	67	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total	11	277	8,012	1,636	1	12	..	10	37	52	360	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	..	..	11	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60	77 do.
PRIMARY EDUCATION.																																	
PRIMARY SCHOOLS																																	
For Boys — Upper Primary	..	..	3,557	558	..	9	..	1	13	26	..	..	3	..	5	..	3	..	..	..	21	..	..	2	..	5	..	1	..	..	4	49 do.
For Boys — Lower ditto	..	1,277	35,256	9,071	..	354	2	99	1,345	801	1,646	58	..	407	32	3	149	355	23	31	184	..	..	23	5	4	10	..	12	10	442	2,665 do.
For Girls — Lower ditto	..	325	2,382	656	..	..	..	11	37	12	209	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	334 boys.
Total	..	1,602	41,195	10,285	..	363	2	111	1,395	839	1,855	58	3	410	37	3	152	355	23	31	215	3	..	25	5	4	10	1	12	10	462	2,714 girls. / 334 boys.
Schools for Special Instruction.																																	
School Education, Special. — Training Schools for Masters	..	109	155	8	..	4	..	..	4	40	10	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	13 girls.
Industrial Schools	..	..	20	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8 boys.
European and Eurasian Schools	18	..	.....	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Law Schools	..	..	3	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Other schools	..	..	36	80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total	18	109	219	88	..	4	..	..	4	40	10	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	13 girls. / 8 boys.
Total of Schools of Public Instruction	29	1,988	43,426	12,009	1	379	2	121	1,436	931	2,225	58	3	431	37	3	156	359	23	31	226	6	1	25	5	4	10	1	12	10	534	2,804 girls in boys' schools. / 542 boys in girls' schools.
Private Institutions. — 1. Advanced teaching— (a) Arabic or Persian	..	..	.....	525	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
(b) Sanskrit	..	..	1,614	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
2. Elementary, teaching. — (a) Teaching a Vernacular only or mainly — For boys.	..	..	469	2	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
„ girls.	..	..	9	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
(b) Elementary maktabs .. — boys.	..	..	.....	2,251	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		17 girls.
„ girls.	..	..	.....	95	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
3. Other schools not conforming to departmental standards — „ boys.	..	..	133	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Total	..	..	2,220	2,877	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		17 girls in boys' schools.
GRAND TOTAL	29	1,988	61,676	14,886	1	379	2	121	1,436	946	2,225	58	3	431	37	3	156	367	23	31	226	6	1	25	5	4	10	1	12	10	534	2,821 total girls in boys' schools. / 542 „ boys in girls' schools.

Education General Table IV.

Return of Expenditure on Public Instruction in the Province of Assam for the official year 1887-88.

Objects of expenditure.	Public Institutions. Under Public Management. Maintained by the Department. Provincial revenues.	Local rates or cesses.	Municipal Funds.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments and other sources.	Total.	Maintained by Local Fund and Municipal Boards. Provincial revenues.	Local rates or cesses.	Municipal Funds.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments and other sources.	Total.	Under Private Management. Aided by the Department or by Local Fund or Municipal Boards. Provincial revenues.	Local rates or cesses.	Municipal Funds.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments and other sources.	Total.	Unaided. Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments and other sources.	Total.	Total Expenditure from Provincial revenues.	Local rates or cesses.	Municipal Funds.	Fees.	All other sources.	Grand Total.
1	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2	3a	3b	3c	3d	3e	3f	3	4a	4b	4c	4d	4e	4f	4	5a	5b	5c	5	6a	6b	6c	6d	6e	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
School Education General. Secondary Education. *High and Middle Schools.* For Boys— High Schools .. English	27,514	..	216	30,667	120	1,234	59,851	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,729	..	6,132	898	1,467	12,026	3,693	..	2,304	5,997	27,514	3,729	216	40,492	5,823	77,874
Middle „ .. English ..	1,786	224	300	1,493	4	246	3,863	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*	11,815	486	10,037	7,162*	580*	30080*	1,636	597‡	7,842	10,075	1,786*	12,039	786	13,076	16,431*	44,118*
Middle „ .. Vernacular ..	8,855	..	..	4,898	..	..	13,750	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,044	360	4,020	4,367	595	15,386	..	..	..	.....	8,855	6,044	360	8,915	4,962	29,136
For Girls— Middle Schools .. Vernacular ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	450	213	..	163	..	826	..	..	..	.....	.....	450	213	....	163	826
Total	38,155	224	616	36,965	124	1,480	77,564	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.. *	22,038	1,059	20,189	12390*	2,642*	58318*	5,329	597	10,146	16,072	38,155*	22,262	1,023	62,483	27,129*	1,51,954*
Primary Education. *Primary Schools.* For Boys— Upper Primary	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	1,656	164	594	28	..	2,436	..	10,197	..	4,965	3,617	39	18,818	107	207	25	339	.....	11,847	164	5,666	3,919	21,593
Lower „	1,253	..	..	..	..	..	1,253	..	76,289	1,132	11,854	1,981	339	91,653	6,946	6,675	91	5,319	852	15,988	35,871	698	319	779	1,796	8,229	82,964	1,223	17,871	20,318	1,30,605
For Girls— Lower Primary	66	..	..	..	..	..	66	..	4,594	691	36	230	21	5,582	697	751	660	195	479	1,691	4,473	1	..	830	831	763	5,355	1,351	232	3,251	10,952
Total	1,319	..	..	..	..	..	1,319	..	82,543	1,987	12,484	2,239	420	99,673	7,643	17,623	751	10,479	4,948	17,718	59,162	806	526	1,634	2,966	8,992	1,00,166	2,738	23,769	27,488	1,63,150
School Education, Special. *Schools for Special Instruction.* Training Schools for Masters	12,361	3,033	..	71	319	..	15,834	50	3,445	..	..	..	..	3,495	1,756	..	..	..	..	837	2,593	..	..	635	664	14,167	6,537	..	71	1,811	22,586
Industrial Schools	..	..	..	..	..	2,586	2,586	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	....	..	....	2,586	2,586
European and Eurasian schools ..	3,115	..	..	1,540	..	244	4,899	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	670	..	..	..	670	3,115	....	..	1,540	244	4,899
Law Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81	..	251	332	.....	....	433	81	251	765
Other Schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	..	433	..	..	..	433	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	....	..	....	....	670
Total	15,476	3,033	..	1,611	319	2,830	23,319	50	3,445	433	..	..	..	3,928	1,756	..	..	..	..	837	2,593	751	..	906	1,668	17,282	6,537	433	2,362	4,892	31,506
University	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	.....	....	..	1,483	....	1,483
Direction	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	17,896	....	..	1,223	....	18,929
Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	23,117	11,412	..	.....	.....	34,529
Scholarships held in Arts Colleges	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	22,621†	....	..	.....	.....	†22,621
Professional Colleges	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	2,028	....	..	.....	410	2,438
Secondary Schools	5,181	3,458	..	..	..	841	9,790	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,108	4,874	..	..	..	15	7,997	..	..	..	1,153	9,550	8,414	..	.....	856	18,920
Primary Schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	..	449	..	..	..	55	504	..	834	110	..	..	18	952	..	..	..	.....	.....	1,274	..	.....	18	1,292
Buildings	6,064	..	..	..	200	..	6,264	..	25	199	..	56	60	340	..	634	110	..	108	210	1,462	..	100	84	284	6,064	659	309	.....	1,318	8,350
Furniture and apparatus (special grants only) ..	1,188	..	..	..	..	..	1,188	..	77	..	..	9	..	86	328	212	54	..	181	105	880	..	29	187	216	1,797	289	54	.....	511	2,651
Miscellaneous	2,768	..	..	..	..	..	2,768	..	254	..	..	..	..	254	..	227	..	..	165	61	453	..	..	135	142	9,611	1,868	..	.....	426	11,705
Total	15,201	3,458	..	..	200	841	20,010	..	756	199	..	65	60	1,120	3,436	6,681	164	..	454	909	11,644	..	129	406	1,775	92,484	23,816	363	2,716	2,339	1,22,918
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.	70,481	6,775	616	38,576	643	5,151	1,22,242	50	86,784	2,619	12,484	2,304	480	104721	12,835	40,342	1,974	30,668	17,792	22,106	131717	6,886	1,952	13,092	22,479	1,56,913*	1,52,781	5,459	91,320	63,645*	1,68,528*

* Exclusive of the expenditure on Manipur School (Rs. 360 from Provincial, Rs. 473 from subscription, Rs. 48 from Endowment and other sources, making a total of Rs. 881.)
† Includes expenditure on middle scholarships paid in Bengal.
‡ Municipal Rs. 250.

EDUCATION GENERAL TABLE V.

Return of the Stages of Instruction of Pupils in Public Schools for General Education in the Province of Assam at the end of the official year 1887-88.

Class of schools.	Number of schools.	Number of pupils on the rolls on 31st March.	High stage. Comprising all pupils who have passed beyond the lower secondary (middle) stage, but have not passed the Matriculation Examination.			Middle stage. Comprising all pupils who have passed beyond the upper primary stage, but have not passed beyond the lower secondary (middle) stage.			Upper primary stage. Comprising all pupils who have passed beyond the lower primary stage, but have not passed beyond the upper primary stage.			Lower primary stage. Comprising all pupils who have not passed beyond the lower primary stage.						Total.		
												Reading printed books.			Not reading printed books.					
			1			2			3			4			5					
			Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
SECONDARY EDUCATION.																				
SECONDARY SCHOOLS.																				
Boys' Schools.																				
High English Schools — Government	11	2,252	433	....	433	567	....	567	468	....	468	734	....	734	....	....	....	2,252	....	2,252
High English Schools — Aided	4	543	144	....	144	113	....	113	89	....	89	197	....	197	....	....	....	543	....	543
High English Schools — Unaided	2	478	130	....	130	111	....	111	128	....	128	109	....	109	....	....	....	478	....	478
Middle English — Government	3	237	....	....	....	47	....	47	63	....	63	127	....	127	....	....	....	237	....	237
Middle English — Aided	30[a]	2,624[a]	6	....	6	325	....	325	621[a]	....	621	1,669	....	1,669	3	....	3	2,624	....	2,624
Middle English — Unaided	11	969	....	....	....	85	....	85	261	20	281	533	54	587	16	....	16	895	74	969
Middle Vernacular Schools — Government	15	1,411	....	....	....	225	....	225	327	....	327	777	2	779	80	....	80	1,409	2	1,411
Middle Vernacular Schools — Aided	30	1,905	....	....	....	290	....	290	415	....	415	1,091	1	1,092	108	....	108	1,904	1	1,905
Total	106	10,419	773	....	773	1,763	....	1,763	2,372	20	2,392	5,227	57	5,284	207	....	207	10,342	77	10,419
Girls' Schools.																				
Middle Vernacular — Aided	2	72	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	7	7	....	61	61	....	3	3	....	72	72
Total	2	72	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	7	7	....	61	61	....	3	3	....	72	72
Total Secondary Schools	108	10,491	773	....	773	1,763	1	1,764	2,372	27	2,399	5,227	118	5,345	207	3	210	10,342	149	10,491
PRIMARY SCHOOLS.																				
For Boys.																				
Upper Primary — Government	13	504	....	....	....	....	....	....	100	....	100	349	4	353	50	1	51	499	5	504
Upper Primary — Aided	99	3,519	....	....	....	....	....	....	693	2	695	2,429	21	2,453	265	6	271	3,487	32	3,519
Upper Primary — Unaided	4	190	....	....	....	....	....	....	13	....	13	130	12	142	35	....	35	178	12	190
Lower Primary — Government	1,245	26,045	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	28,138	913	29,051	6,834	169	6,994	34,972	1,073	26,045
Lower Primary — Aided	397	12,127	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9,623	1,317	10,940	1,142	45	1,187	10,765	1,362	12,127
Lower Primary — Unaided	122	3,434	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2,308	208	2,516	896	22	918	3,204	230	3,434
Total	1,870	55,819	....	....	....	....	....	....	806	2	808	42,977	2,478	45,455	9,322	234	9,556	53,105	2,714	55,819
For Girls.																				
Ditto — Government	106	1,338	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	5	26	1,187	1,282	60	251	311	135	1,443	1,578
Ditto — Aided	47	1,207	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23	23	203	963	1,166	21	25	46	224	983	1,207
Ditto — Unaided	47	843	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	30	423	453	125	265	390	155	688	843
Total	202	3,388	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	28	28	328	2,545	2,873	206	541	747	534	3,114	3,648
Total Primary Schools	2,072	59,207	....	....	....	....	....	....	806	30	836	43,305	5,023	48,328	9,528	775	10,303	53,639	5,828	59,467
Grand Total	2,180	69,698	773	....	773	1,763	1	1,764	3,178	57	3,235	48,532	5,141	53,673	9,735	778	10,513	63,981	5,977	69,958

[a] Exclusive of Manipur school with 56 pupils reading in Upper Primary Stage.

Note.—The number of girls shown in this table should correspond with the number returned under Primary and Secondary Schools in General Forms I. and III.
Mixed schools should be entered as boys' schools or girls' schools, according as the number of boys or of girls is greater.
For the purposes of this return schools maintained by Municipal Boards are included in Government Schools.

EDUCATION GENERAL TABLE VI.

Return showing the Results of Prescribed Examinations in the Province of Assam during the official year 1887-88.

Nature of examination.		Number of institutions sending examinees.				Number of examinees.					Number passed.					Race or creed of passed scholars.										
		Institutions under public management.	Aided institutions.	Other institutions.	Total.	Institutions under public management.	Aided institutions.	Other institutions.	Private students.	Total.	Institutions under public management.	Aided institutions.	Other institutions.	Private students.	Total.	Europeans and Eurasians.	Native Christians.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Khásis.	Kacharis.	Lalung.	Manipuris.	Mikirs.	Brahmo.	Others.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16*a*	16*b*	16*c*	16*d*	16*e*	16*f*	16*g*	16*h*	16*i*	16*j*	16*k*
Schools of General Education—																										
Matriculation	Boys	10	4	2	16	91	37	40	3	171	62	14	11	2	89	.....	..	82	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Middle English Scholarship Examination ..	Boys	3	24	2	29	5	52	14	2	73	3	38	2	..	43	.....	..	41	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ Vernacular ditto ditto ..	Boys	(*a*) 15	49	3	67	76	176	6	30	(*a*) 369	55	143	3	5	(*a*) 206	.....	1	183	20	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
	Girls	....	1	..	1	....	1	..	..	1	....	1	..	..	1	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Upper Primary ditto ditto ..	Boys	Details not given.			(*b*) 93	Details not given.			14	(*b*) 331	Details not given.			13	(*b*) 217	.....	1	199	11	..	1	1	1	1	..	2
	Girls	Ditto ditto.			(*c*) 2	Ditto ditto.			..	3	Ditto ditto.			..	3	.....	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lower ditto ditto ditto ..	Boys	Ditto ditto.			(*d*) 830	Ditto ditto.			4	(*d*) 2,695	Ditto ditto.			..	(*d*) 978	.....	..	767	109	41	44	2	1	..	..	14
	Girls	Ditto ditto.			3	Ditto ditto.			..	18	Ditto ditto.			..	3	.....	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Schools of Special Instruction—																										
1. Training School Examination for Masters ..	Upper	2	..	..	2	41	..	..	..	41	18	..	..	..	18	.....	..	12	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Lower	10	4	..	14	97	5	..	20	122	43	2	..	4	49	.....	1	34	1	13	..	..	..	..	..	..

(*a*) Includes 3 middle English schools which sent up 81 candidates, of whom 66 were passed.
(*b*) Includes 9 middle schools which sent up 25 candidates, of whom 22 were passed.
(*c*) Two Lower Primary girls' schools.
(*d*) Includes 22 upper primary and 5 middle schools which sent up 96 and 39 candidates, of whom 24 and 28 were passed.

EDUCATION GENERAL TABLE VII.

Return showing the distribution of Local Fund and Municipal Expenditure on Public Instruction in the Province of Assam for the official year 1887-88.

Objects of Expenditure.	Expenditure of Local Fund Boards on public instruction.															Expenditure of Municipal Boards on public instruction.															
	In institutions maintained by Local Fund Boards.											In institutions maintained by			Total Local Fund expenditure on Public Instruction.	In institutions maintained by Municipal Boards.											In institutions maintained by			Total Municipal expenditure on public instruction.	Total expenditure of Local Fund and Municipal Boards on public instruction.
	Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on the 31st of March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Provincial grants.	Local rates or cesses.	Municipal grants.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments and other sources.	Total.	The Department.	Municipal Boards.	Private persons or Associations.		Number of institutions.	Number of scholars on the rolls on the 31st of March.	Average number on the rolls monthly during the year.	Average daily attendance.	Provincial grants.	Municipal rates.	Local Fund grants.	Fees.	Subscriptions.	Endowments and other sources.	Total.	The Department.	Local Fund Boards.	Private persons or Associations.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
	SECONDARY EDUCATION.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.																	
	High and Middle Schools.																														
School Education, General.	For boys, High Schools .. English	..	....	....	....	..	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	3,729	3,729	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	316	..	..	316	4,045
	„ „ Middle Schools.. English	..	....	....	....	..	....	..	....	....	..	....	224	..	11,815	12,039	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	300	..	736	1,036	13,075
	„ „ „ Vernacular	..	....	....	....	..	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	6,044	6,044	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	360	360	6,404
	„ girls, „ „ .. Vernacular	..	....	....	....	..	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	450	450	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	213	213	663
	Total.....	..	....	....	....	..	....	..	....	....	..	....	224	..	22,038	22,262	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	616	..	1,309	1,925	24,187
	PRIMARY EDUCATION.																														
	Primary Schools.																														
	For boys, Upper Primary	13	559	520	395	..	1,650	164	594	28	..	2,436	....	..	10,197	11,847	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	164	....	164	12,011
	„ „ Lower Primary	1,224	35,877	33,507	24,159	..	76,289	1,132	11,854	1,981	399	91,655	....	..	6,675	82,964	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	1,132	91	1,223	84,187
	„ girls, „ „	112	1,706	1,682	1,235	..	4,604	691	36	230	21	5,582	....	..	751	5,353	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	691	660	1,351	6,706
	Total.....	1,349	38,142	35,709	25,789	..	82,543	1,987	12,484	2,239	420	99,673	....	..	17,623	1,00,166	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	1,987	751	2,738	1,02,904
	Schools for Special Instruction.																														
	School Education, Special. Training Schools for Masters.....	3	57	69	50	50	3,445	..	....	....	..	3,495	3,083	..	....	6,537a	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	....	....	6,537
	Other Schools.....	2	36	33	25	..	....	433	....	....	..	433	....	..	....	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	433	....	433	433
	Total	5	93	102	75	50	3,445	433	....	....	..	3,928	3,083	..	....	6,537	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	433	....	433	6,970
	Inspection.....	..	....	....	....	..	....	..	....	....	..	....	....	..	....	11,412	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	....	....	11,412
	Scholarships held in Secondary Schools.....	..	....	....	....	..	....	..	....	....	..	....	3,468	..	4,874	8,514b	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	....	....	8,514
	Primary „	..	....	....	....	..	440	..	....	....	..	440	....	..	834	1,274	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	....	....	1,274
	Buildings	..	....	....	....	..	25	193	....	56	60	340	....	..	534	659c	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	199	110	309	968
	Furniture and Apparatus (special grants only)	..	....	....	....	..	77	..	....	9	..	86	....	..	212	289	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	54	....	....	54	343
	Miscellaneous	..	....	....	....	..	254	..	....	....	..	254	....	..	227	1,668d	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	....	....	....	1,668
	Total.....	..	....	....	....	..	796	199	....	65	60	1,120	3,468	..	6,681	23,516	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	54	199	110	363	24,179
	Grand Total.....	1,354	38,235	35,811	25,864	50	86,784	2,619	12,484	2,304	480	1,04,721	6,775	..	46,382	1,57,781	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	670	2,619	2,170	5,459	1,63,240

(a) Not in detail Rs. 9
(b) Ditto „ 172
(c) Not in detail Rs. 100
(d) Ditto „ 1,187

I.—The sum of the expenditure in columns 12 and 27 should agree with the expenditure shown in column 2 of General Table IV.
II.—The sum of the expenditure in columns 16 and 31 should agree with the expenditure shown in columns 55 and 64, respectively, of General Table IV.

PROVINCIAL STATEMENT.

APPENDIX A.

Results of Entrance Examination for last five years.

	Name of school.	1883.		1885.		1886.		1887.		1888.	
		Number of candidates who appeared.	Number passed.	Number of candidates who appeared.	Number passed.	Number of candidates who appeared.	Number passed.	Number of candidates who appeared.	Number passed.	Number of candidates who appeared.	Number passed.
Departmental Entrance Schools.	Silchar (Cachar)	4	2	5	3	5	2	7	4	5	5
	Sylhet	21	16	19	13	21	12	30	26	29	24
	Shillong (Khási Hills)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
	Dhubri (Goálpára)	5	4	8	3	4	2	5	5	13	10
	Gauháti (Kámrup)	8	5	12	7	12	4	12	9	14	9
	Tezpur (Darrang)	6	2	4	2	2	1	6	5	6	5
	Nowgong	8	3	8	1	6	2	2	2	4	4
	Jorhát (Sibságar)	2	1	8	3	4	...	7	5	3	2
	Sibságar	4	3	7	...	5	3	11	2	9	1
	Dibrugarh (Lakhimpur)	6	...	6	2	5	4	6	3	4	1
	Kohima (Nága Hills)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	64	36	77	34	64	30	86	61	91	62
Aided.	Barpeta (Kámrúp)	2	1	3	...	5	2	5	4	6	2
	Habiganj (Sylhet)	4	2	8	2	13	3	8	4	19	8
	Sunámganj („)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	3
	Shillong Mission, Khási Hills	2	...	1	1	1	...	6	5	5	1
	Total	8	3	12	3	19	5	19	13	37	14
Unaided.	National Institution (Sylhet)	18	7	20	3	16	4	14	9	21	5
	Murari Chand	No school.						13	8	19	6
	Habiganj Institution	Ditto.						5	3	No school.	
	Total	18	7	20	3	16	4	32	20	40	11
	Grand Total	90	46	109	40	99	39	137	94	168	87

Resolution on the Report on Public Instruction, 1887-88.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner of Assam in the General Department, No. 6,024, dated the 26th October 1888.

READ—

The Report on Public Instruction in Assam for the year 1887-88.

RESOLUTION.

THIS Report was punctually submitted by the Inspector, Mr. J. Willson, who held charge of the department throughout the year, but there was again considerable delay in printing it in consequence of pressure of work at the Secretariat Press. An endeavour will be made to minimize such delay in future by a more regular distribution of printing work; but it is feared that, whatever may be done in this direction, some delay is inevitable, as it is beyond the capacity of the Press to carry through with promptness the large amount of work which devolves upon it during this particular season of the year.

General results.

2. The general results, as summarized in paragraphs 1—6 of the report, appear on the whole satisfactory. The total number of schools of all classes, public and private, advanced from 2,290 in the previous year to 2,457, while the number of pupils increased from 69,802 to 75,688, and the figures now reached in regard to public (that is departmental and aided) schools and pupils represent an increase of 543 schools (or 33 per cent.) and 13,680 pupils (or 25 per cent.) on what they were five years ago. The Inspector observes that much weight need not be attached to the figures which relate to private institutions, "as the number reported depends very much on the exertions of Sub-Inspectors of Schools, the teachers, as a rule, being not only indifferent, but sometimes unwilling to submit statistics." The Chief Commissioner has no wish to interfere unduly with the discretion of managers of private educational institutions in this or in any other matter; but, in view of the desirability of securing as complete educational statistics as possible of all classes of schools, he thinks that the Sub-Inspectors should do their best in all cases to procure such statistics, and Mr. Fitzpatrick looks to the Inspector to see that this duty is not neglected. It is certainly not right that the statistics under this head should, as Mr. Willson states to be the case, depend "chiefly on whether Sub-Inspectors were indifferent or not in urging the teachers to submit returns."

The increase in public schools and scholars was common to all districts of the Province, except Sibságar, Lakhimpur, and the Gáro Hills. In Sibságar a small increase in the number of schools was accompanied by an inconsiderable decrease in the number of scholars. In the Gáro Hills the number of scholars increased slightly in spite of a small falling off in the number of schools In Lakhimpur alone did a falling off occur both in the number of schools and the number of scholars. Some explanation might, with advantage, have been given of the result last mentioned. The advance in Sylhet and Kámrúp was especially marked and satisfactory.

The Chief Commissioner is also glad to notice that the number of Mahomedan pupils increased from 10,156 in the previous year to 12,034, or by 18 per cent., and that, excluding the hill districts, where the figures are very inconsiderable, the increase thus shown was common to all districts of the Province except Sibságar and Lakhimpur.

Expenditure.

3. The total expenditure of the department rose from Rs. 4,57.916 in the previous year to Rs. 4,70,409. The proportions in which the total for each year was made up of Provincial grants, grants from Local and Municipal Funds, fees, subscriptions, endowments, and other sources are shown below :—

	1886-87.		1887-88.	
	Rs.	Percentage.	Rs.	Percentage.
Provincial Funds ..	1,42,610	31·14	1,57,273	33·43
Local ,, ...	1,55,187	33·89	1,52,781	32·48
Municipal ,, ...	4,702	1·02	5,459	1·16
Fees	92,455	20·19	91,380	19·41
Subscriptions	22,713	4·96	22,214	4·72
Endowments and other sources	40,249	8·80	41,352	8·80
Total ...	4,57,916	100·00	4,70,409	100·00

The Inspector explains that the expenditure from Provincial Funds includes a sum of Rs. 11,579, the greater part of which (Rs. 9,479) was spent upon original works and repairs to departmental school buildings, and that these items have in previous years been debited to Local Funds If this is so, the sums spent on similar items in the previous year must apparently have been considerably smaller than they were during the year under report, as otherwise a corresponding decrease would have appeared this year under expenditure from Local Funds. Possibly, however, the explanation is that any such decrease was more than counterbalanced by a larger contribution from Local Funds towards educational objects generally, but the Chief Commissioner would be glad if the matter were further enquired into. Under the head of Fees, which includes "Examination fees and fines for transfer of scholarships in Assam" and "Fees in the Calcutta University," the receipts from both of which items showed an increase, there was a considerable decrease, the school fees levied throughout the Province having fallen from Rs. 90,342 to Rs. 88,614. In future reports, the Chief Commissioner desires that separate paragraphs may be devoted to noticing the fee receipts in each class of Government schools, high, middle, and primary. Mr. Fitzpatrick has been unable to find in the present report certain information which he desired under this head, as the receipts from fees are not in all cases separately shown, and it is very necessary that stock should be taken each year of the extent to which it has been found possible to make education, especially in the higher branches, more self-supporting than it at present is. It is doubtless the case that the circumstances of Assam render it impossible to proceed as far or as quickly in this direction as those of other more advanced provinces, but there can be no good reason why the principle should not be steadily borne in mind or why increasing effect should not be given to it from time to time so far as the circumstances of the Province admit. As regards expenditure from municipal funds, a fairly large increase is observable, but the Chief Commissioner is not satisfied that the contributions at present made by municipalities towards educational objects are in all cases adequate. This point has been dealt with separately in the Provincial Municipal Report.

The figures given in paragraph 6 of the report, which show the average yearly cost to the Government of educating each pupil in departmental and aided schools, will be noticed, where necessary, under the several classes of schools to which they relate; but the Chief Commissioner observes that the variations shown in this paragraph between the percentages of total cost borne by the State as compared with the corresponding figures of the previous year are in some cases so large that, considering the great importance of the matter, a fuller explanation of the results might well have been expected.

Recommendations of the Education Commission

4. In August 1887 an educational conference was held at Shillong, at which non-official interests were fully represented, for the purpose of discussing several matters of more or less importance to the progress of education of the Province. As a consequence of this conference, various changes, described in paragraph 16 of the present report, have been introduced, the results of which can scarcely fail to be beneficial, especially in so far as they will have the effect of bringing the primary school course into more complete harmony with the practical requirements of the classes of the population concerned, and will probably tend to a further development of the grant-in-aid system in the case of certain classes of schools. The periodical holding of such conferences is in accordance with the views expressed by the Education Commission in paragraph 349 of their report, which have the entire concurrence of the Chief Commissioner.

Tours and inspections

5. In paragraph 3 of the orders on last year's report an unsatisfactory falling off was noticed in the activity of inspection shown both by Deputy-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. From paragraphs 18 and 19 of the present report it is clear that the amount of inspection work performed by Deputy-Inspectors in some cases leaves very much room for improvement, while, as regards Sub-Inspectors, although Mr. Willson expresses his belief that the inspections made were more thorough than those of the previous year, it is most unsatisfactory to notice that out of 23 officers of this class, only six reached the prescribed number of days on tour, *viz.*, 260. The Chief Commissioner looks to the Inspector to keep his subordinate officers up to their work in this important respect, and will be prepared to take serious notice of any cases in which either Deputy-Inspectors or Sub-Inspectors may be shown to have failed in their duties without sufficient cause.

High Schools

6. High schools increased from 16 with 3,037 pupils in the previous year to 17 with 3,273 pupils. Of these 17 schools, 11 with 2,252 pupils were departmental institutions, against 10 with 2,129 pupils in 1886-87. Aided high schools numbered 4 with 543 pupils, against 3 with 382 pupils

in the previous year, while unaided schools of this class fell from 3 with 526 pupils to 2 with 478 pupils. As regards departmental high schools, the results during the year under report show but little progress, the number of pupils on the rolls monthly and the average daily attendance having increased by only 62 and 8 respectively. On the other hand, in the case of these institutions, the percentage of daily attendance on the average number on the rolls monthly fell from 83·6 to 81·6. In regard to the expenditure on departmental high schools, the Chief Commissioner notices that there is a tendency towards increase both in the total average cost and in the average cost to the State of educating each pupil. The figures for the last four years having been—

1884-85.		1885-86.		1886-87.		1887-88.	
Total average cost.	Average cost to Government.	Total average cost.	Average cost to Government.	Total average cost.	Average cost to Government.	Total average cost.	Average cost to Government.
Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.
23 15 2	9 11 7	24 5 10	10 3 8	26 4 3	11 1 8	27 3 3	12 8 1

It is believed that the steady increase which has taken place in these averages has been due partly to revision of establishment, which entailed additional cost, partly to the inclusion in the school accounts of the cost of the repairs, &c., of school buildings, and partly to the establishment of a school at Kohima in the Nága Hills district, where no fees are charged. But, whatever may be the reasons for the results shown, the matter is one which should be carefully watched, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that it will be fully discussed in the report for the current year. Another point which has attracted the attention of the Chief Commissioner is in regard to the considerable variations shown in the statement given in paragraph 22 of the report under the head of the average cost to Government of educating each pupil in departmental high schools. Excluding the school at Kohima, which is of course exceptionally situated, it is noticed that the average cost to Government of educating a pupil varied from Rs. 2-8-7 in the case of the Jorhát school to Rs. 22-1-4 in the case of the school at Cachar. The Chief Commissioner is, of course, aware that some variations in these averages are to be expected in consequence of the greater or smaller number of pupils on the rolls of the several schools, the expenditure on the teaching staff, the comparative healthiness or unhealthiness of the year, the varying amounts spent on repairs to buildings, the endowments available in some places, and generally differences in local circumstances; but where the variations are so considerable as those shown, some explanation becomes necessary. Under the head of receipts from fees in Government high schools, it is noticed that the decrease which took place during the year is said to have been due to outstandings on account of boys whose names were struck off the rolls for non-payment of fees. If this is the case, it would seem to indicate a defect of system which calls for early remedy, and the Chief Commissioner is glad to see from the remarks on the Dibrugarh High School (page 23 of the report) that the matter has attracted the attention of the Inspector. Rules should be framed, if this has not already been done, to provide against the possibility of the occurrence of large outstandings on this account.

Turning now to the quality of the teaching as evidenced by the degree of success attained at the Entrance Examination, it is observed that in the Government schools the results corresponded closely with those of the previous year, 62 candidates having passed out of 91 who presented themselves for examination, against 61 out of 86. In the case of aided schools the number of candidates increased considerably (from 19 to 37), but the degree of success attained was almost the same as in the previous year, 14 candidates having passed, against 13. From unaided schools 40 candidates presented themselves, of whom 11 were successful, against 32, of whom 20 were successful, in 1886-87. As in the previous year, the Sylhet Government School stands beyond comparison above all the others, having passed 24 out of 29 candidates, and great credit for this result is due to the teaching staff of that institution. Taken as a whole, the general results show a falling off as compared with the previous year, the number of candidates who actually passed having decreased from 94 to 87, while the percentage of successful candidates to the total number who presented themselves fell from 68·7 to 51·7. The figures support the conclusion of the Inspector that the masters of aided and unaided schools did not take the same care in selecting candidates sent up as the masters of the Government schools. On the other hand, it certainly appears to have been the case that the candidates sent up from the Government schools were better prepared than those from either aided or unaided institutions.

In paragraph 28 of the report the Inspector gives a statement showing the present avocations, so far as it has been found possible to ascertain them, of the boys who were in the first classes of certain high schools during the past five years. The figures show that

of 358 pupils who have been traced, four are engaged in trade or are landowners, 126 are in employment or apprentices, and 228 are still carrying on their studies either at school or college. This statement is one to which the Chief Commissioner attaches much importance, and the Inspector has accordingly been directed invariably to insert similar statistics in the report. In future Mr. Fitzpatrick desires that such further details as can be procured may be given as to the position of old pupils classed as "in employment or apprentices," and also that the progress of students who go up to the University should be watched, details being given as to how many of them proceed to the F.A., B.A., and other University Examinations, and with what degree of success in the case of each examination.

The burning of the two school buildings at Tezpur, to which reference is made in paragraph 29 of the report, was reported to the Chief Commissioner, but, so far as the papers show, the statement that they were burned by an incendiary rests on suspicion only. In the case of the Sunámganj school the facts were not reported by the Inspector, probably because the school concerned was not a departmental but an aided institution.

The proposals in regard to gymnastics, referred to in paragraph 30 of the report, are presumably those made by the Inspector in connection with the question of discipline and moral training in schools. These proposals have been separately submitted to the Government of India with letter No. 4,815, dated the 31st August last, and the Chief Commissioner awaits any orders which the Governor General in Council may see fit to issue before taking further action in the matter.

In paragraph 31 of the report it is stated that the idea of building the Sylhet boarding houses, which had been closed under the orders of the Civil Surgeon, has been abandoned, owing to the want of suitable sites. The Chief Commissioner desires to receive a full and early report showing exactly what has taken place in this matter. In paragraph 8 of the orders on last year's report it was said that "early measures should be taken to provide suitable accommodation at this important centre," and it seems extraordinary that it should have been decided definitely to close these institutions the great utility of which has been so frequently affirmed. On the other hand, Mr. Fitzpatrick can hardly believe that suitable sites for re-building are not available, and in any case the matter is of sufficient importance to have demanded a separate and full report before any decision was arrived at.

The Chief Commissioner has no remarks to make upon the notices of the working of the several high schools during the year under report in addition to what has already been said as to the desirability of introducing a proper system in connection with the payment of fees. The question of the mode of treatment which should be applied to the high school at Shillong is being separately considered.

Middle English schools

7. The number of Middle English schools was the same as in the previous year, 45; but the number of pupils on the rolls showed a small decrease, from 4,031 to 3,886. There was also a small falling off in the average daily attendance, from 2,767 to 2,752. The cost to Government (excluding Local Funds) of the departmental schools, three in number, decreased from Rs. 2,348 to Rs. 1,786, and the average cost to Government of educating each pupil in these schools fell from Rs 10-11-8 to Rs. 8-14-11. The comparatively high average cost to Government of educating each pupil in the departmental schools of this class is explained by the fact that such schools are only maintained in places where aided schools have proved a failure, owing to want of local support, and that, being situated in unfavourable localities, where only small subscriptions are forthcoming, these institutions are peculiarly expensive In the case of the Goálpára school, it is understood that the high average cost to Government (Rs. 13-9-4) is due to the fact that the school is a new one and that the number of pupils is at present small. The Chief Commissioner has no particular remarks to make in regard to these schools, but it is satisfactory to notice that the results of the examinations show distinct improvement, 26 schools having been successful in passing candidates at the English and Vernacular examinations against 23 in the previous year, and 109 out of 152 candidates having succeeded in those examinations, against 72 out of 133 candidates in 1886-87. As pointed out in the report of last year, schools of this class are successful only in the Surma Valley, and do not thrive in the districts of Assam Proper.

Middle Vernacular Schools.

8. The total number of Middle Vernacular schools in the year under report was 45, with an average daily attendance of 2,486 pupils, against 47, with an average daily attendance of 2,441 in the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 28,976 (against Rs. 28,698 in the previous year), of which Rs. 13,797 (against Rs. 13,672) represented sums paid otherwise than by public funds. The departmental schools aggregated 15 against 16 in the preceding year, and the average daily attendance showed a slight increase of 57 pupils (from 1,040 to 1,097). The average cost to Government of educating each pupil was

Rs. 6-11-11 (against Rs. 6-14-6 in the previous year); but this average was largely exceeded in the case of the departmental school at Cachar, where it amounted to as much as Rs. 14-12-10. It is understood that the high average in Cachar is due to the fact the figures for expenditure include sums spent on a second departmental school of this class which was closed during the year, but apart from this fact, the small average daily attendance (23 only) suggests the question whether the continued maintenance of this school is really necessary. As in the case of the middle English schools, the results of the examinations were better than in the previous year, 177 candidates having been sent up for examination by the Middle Vernacular Scholarship and Pass Certificate tests, of whom 135, or 76 per cent., were successful, against 161 candidates in the previous year, of whom 74, or only between 45 and 46 per cent., were successful.

Upper primary schools.

9. There was a small decrease in boys' primary schools of the upper class from 109 in the previous year to 106, which was accompanied by an inconsiderable falling off in the average daily attendance, from 3,100 to 2,969. The number of departmental schools fell from 17, with an average daily attendance of 509, to 13 with an attendance of 395; but two of the four schools thus lost represent schools transferred to the aided list. The small difference in the average cost to Government of educating each pupil in the Local Board schools (Rs. 3-6-6) and in the aided schools (Rs. 3-3-1) is noticeable, while in the previous year the average cost to Government in the case of schools of the former class (Rs. 2-13-3) was actually less than that in the latter (Rs. 3-1-9). These figures represent a result which would scarcely have been expected, more especially when, as the Inspector points out, "the Local Board upper primary schools have been started, as a rule, in backward places, where there was not sufficient local spirit to start grant-in-aid schools." This result is, however, clearly due to the figures for the Kámrúp district, which district has 9 Local Board schools, with 409 pupils on the rolls monthly, out of a total of 13 such schools throughout the Province, with an average of 520 pupils on the rolls. The effect of the Kámrúp statistics is obviously to make the Provincial average cost to Government of educating each pupil in Local Board schools considerably lower than it would otherwise have been. In themselves the figures for the Kámrúp district are noteworthy, as the average cost to Government in the case of Local Board schools is not only very much lower than that in either of the other two districts, in which such schools exist (Sylhet and Sibságar), but is also lower than that of the aided schools in any other district. The Chief Commissioner had wished to compare the average cost to Government of educating each pupil in Local Board schools with that in aided schools in the three districts in which alone schools of both classes exist, but an examination of the figures shows that any such comparison is impossible, owing on the one hand to the very small number of Board schools in the Sylhet and Sibságar districts (two only in each case with an average number on the rolls monthly of 70 and 41 respectively), and the comparatively large number of aided schools in those districts (34 and 10, with an average number on the rolls of 1,245 and 342 respectively), and on the other hand to the comparatively large number of Local Board schools in the Kámrúp district (9, with an average number on the rolls of 409) and the small number of aided schools in that district (2, with an average number on the rolls of 154 pupils).

The examination results in this class of schools were not quite so good as in the previous year, the number of schools which succeeded in passing candidates at the Upper Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examinations having decreased from 73 to 69, and the number of successful candidates having fallen from 196 (out of 296 sent up) to 181 (out of 306 sent up). A greater number of candidates were thus sent up for examination than in the preceding year, but a smaller number were successful.

Lower primary schools.

10. The general results under this head appear to the Chief Commissioner to constitute the most satisfactory feature in the present report, the number of lower primary schools for boys having increased from 1,640 in the previous year, with an average daily attendance of 31,292, to 1,764, with an attendance of 35,289. Of this increase (124 in the number of schools and 3,997 in the average daily attendance), the larger portion (69 in the number of schools, and 2,299 in the average daily attendance) was due to an advance under the head of aided institutions. On the other hand, although Local Fund and Municipal schools actually decreased in number by one (1,224, against 1,225 in the previous year), there was a considerable increase in the average daily attendance (from 23,454 to 24,159). In regard to expenditure, it is noticed that while that portion which is classified as Provincial showed a small decrease (from Rs. 8,232 to Rs. 8,229) a substantial increase took place under the other heads, local and municipal expenditure having advanced from Rs. 79,745 to Rs. 84,231, and expenditure under the head of "other sources" from Rs. 33,542 to Rs. 38,115. The average cost to Government of educating each pupil fell from Rs. 2-0-5 to Re. 1-14-10.

The figures given in paragraph 49 of the report, which show the results of the Lower Primary Scholarship and Pass Certificate Examinations for boys' schools, appear at first sight to indicate an unsatisfactory falling off, as compared with the previous year; but this is mainly due to a change of system, whereby, instead of the examinations being separately held in the several districts, a common examination was held during the year under report for all the plains districts. Under the old system, there is no doubt, as the Inspector points out, that practically varying standards were applied, as the value to be assigned to the papers of answers was adjudged by separate examiners for separate districts. This has, of course, ceased under the existing arrangement, whereby the entire examinations for the Province are conducted by the same examiners, the question papers being distributed, as before, to the several districts. In paragraph 50 of the report a statement is given, the object of which is to show the relative efficiency of the several districts in the Province, as judged by the results of this examination. In regard to this statement, the Chief Commissioner would observe that it is scarcely possible to arrive at any positive conclusions on the strength of a test of this sort so soon after it has been introduced, and before those concerned have become thoroughly familiarized with it; but, so far as an opinion can be formed, the failure of Sibságar is very striking. The failure of Sylhet, too, though less striking, is remarkable. No doubt, the latter district succeeded in passing a large proportion of the candidates it sent up (44·7 per cent.); but this would seem to be owing to its having sent up specially picked boys, the percentage of competing candidates on the roll number having been 3·99 only. On the other hand, the proportion (1·78 per cent.) of successful candidates to the number on the rolls, which seems to be the fairest test, is remarkably small for so advanced a district. The Chief Commissioner, however, understands from the Officiating Inspector that the low averages both of competing candidates and of successful candidates to the number on the rolls in the Sylhet district are largely due to the fact that the introduction of the system of rewards by results has had the effect of applying an abnormal stimulus to the establishment of lower primary schools, and that many of these new schools are not yet in a position to send up candidates for examination, though they may be expected before long to do so.

Classification of pupils in upper and lower primary schools.

11. Turning now to the classification of pupils in upper and lower primary schools according to religion, Mr. Fitzpatrick is glad to notice an advance in the number of Mahomedan pupils, both absolutely and relatively to pupils of other creeds or nationalities, which was common to every district of the Province, except the Khási and Jaintia Hills and Kámrúp, in the former of which districts the absolute number and percentage remained the same as in the previous year (5 and ·20 respectively), while in the latter the actual number of Mahomedan pupils increased from 797 to 873, although the percentage fell slightly, from 9·82 to 9·59. Taking the Province as a whole, Mahomedan pupils at these institutions increased from 8,078 in the previous year to 9,629, and the percentage to other pupils advanced from 15·87 to 17·25. As opposed to this result, the decrease under the head of "others," which the Inspector attributes to a smaller attendance of such tribes as the Kacháris, Miris, &c., is to be regretted, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that this matter will be carefully watched, such remedial measures as may be possible being, if necessary, applied.

Payment by results.

12. A full account is given in paragraphs 52—54 of the report of the system under which payments to aided schools are regulated wholly or partly according to the results attained and of the degree of success in the several districts which attended the introduction of the system whereby such payments are regulated wholly by results instead of either wholly by fixed pay or partly by fixed pay and partly by results. The figures here given (many of which, it may be observed, would be more conveniently exhibited in a tabular form) seem to support the view of the Education Commission as to the suitability of the system of payment by results to primary schools. The Chief Commissioner will, however, reserve his opinion on this matter until he has seen more of the actual working of the schools. He would be glad if the Inspector would in his next annual report compare the success attained at the common examination by the pupils of the schools on the fixed pay system with that attained by the pupils of the schools in which the result system is adopted. The Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet will be asked to submit any explanation which he may have to offer in regard to the statement made in paragraph 56 of the report, that instances were brought to the notice of the Inspector in which applicants for aid had been put off by evasive answers, or in which their cases had been kept so long pending by the Local Board that the schools collapsed.

Normal schools.

13. There is no point in the educational system to which the Chief Commissioner attaches more importance than the provision of an efficient teaching staff; and as was observed by the Government of India in reviewing the Report on Public Instruction in Assam for the year 1885-86, the most pressing subject at present in connection with the progress of education in this Province is the dearth of properly-qualified teachers. Under these circumstances, Mr. Fitzpatrick would have been glad if he could have noticed some improvement in the results during the year under report; but unfortunately those results are far from satisfactory, not only in themselves, but also when compared with those of the preceding year. It is true that the average daily attendance of pupils at normal schools advanced from 268 (out of 382 on the rolls) in the previous year to 298 (out of 362 on the rolls) but the results of the teachership examinations were most discouraging. Excluding the school at Cherra Punji, which is designed only to supply the purely local demand in the Khási Hills, the number of pupils who succeeded in gaining a vernacular mastership certificate fell from 22 to 13, while the number who obtained a primary schoolmastership certificate decreased from 43 to 32. The falling off which took place is no doubt largely, though not wholly, due to the closing of the school at Sylhet. The Chief Commissioner is aware that the provision of efficient training schools for teachers is a matter of peculiar difficulty in Assam on account of both financial and other reasons, and he is not prepared without further experience to make any definite suggestions for improving the present state of things. But Mr. Fitzpatrick desires that the Inspector will bestow particular attention on this matter, and he will be ready to give effect, so far as the funds at his disposal allow, to any well-considered proposal which would result in improving the qualifications of the teaching staff in the secondary schools of the Province, especially in the districts of the Assam Valley, where it is believed that the supply of qualified locally-trained masters for schools above the primary class is altogether unequal to meet the demand.

Technical education.

14. The arrangements made under this head in Assam were described in paragraph 16 of the review on last year's report, and it is unnecessary to recapitulate them. With the exception of the Williamson Artizan School, which is designed to give instruction in carpentry and smith's work, no separate institution exists for technical education; but, so far as funds allow, medical and mechanical apprentice scholarships are offered, which enable a limited number of promising students to prosecute their studies in Bengal. It may be added that Mr. Fitzpatrick's attention is at present directed to the matter with a view to such improvement or extension being made as may from time to time be shown to be practicable and expedient.

Female education.

15. Satisfactory progress is indicated in the report in regard to female education, the number of schools having increased from 170 in the previous year to 204, and the number of pupils from 3,018 to 3,720; but this improvement was unfortunately not reflected in the results of the lower primary examination for girls' lower primary schools, competing girls' schools having fallen from 12 to 4, the candidates from 35 to 21, the successful candidates from 21 to 3, and the number of scholarships from 7 to 1. The Chief Commissioner does not find that any explanation is offered of these figures, and commends the subject to the attention of the Inspector. In spite, however, of the retrograde results, indications are not wanting that in some portions of the Province, at all events, a considerable degree of interest has been awakened in regard to female education. Thus, in paragraph 73 of the report Mr. Willson, commenting on the large increase of unaided girls' schools in Sylhet (from 11 with 154 pupils in the previous year to 43 with 759 pupils), states his impression "that the majority of these schools have been started by native gentlemen in their own *baris* for the education of their girls, and that the teachers get no money payment, but are fed and lodged by them, the girls from the neighbouring houses being allowed to attend." If this conjecture is correct, it affords about as striking an indication as could be desired of the interest taken by the people themselves in the promotion of female education. The Chief Commissioner desires that the Inspector will make full enquiries into the matter. Mr. Fitzpatrick is also glad to notice the good work done during the year by the Sylhet Union in regard to female education. The figures given in paragraph 78 of the report show that the efforts of this institution resulted in real progress, which, the Chief Commissioner hopes, will be maintained.

16. In conclusion, the Chief Commissioner desires to acknowledge the able and efficient manner in which Mr. Willson has supervised the working of the department during the year, and to commend the good work done by the senior Deputy-Inspector, Babu Nava Kisor Sen, who is at present acting as Inspector during Mr. Willson's absence on privilege leave.

Conclusion.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

F. C. DAUKES,

Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

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